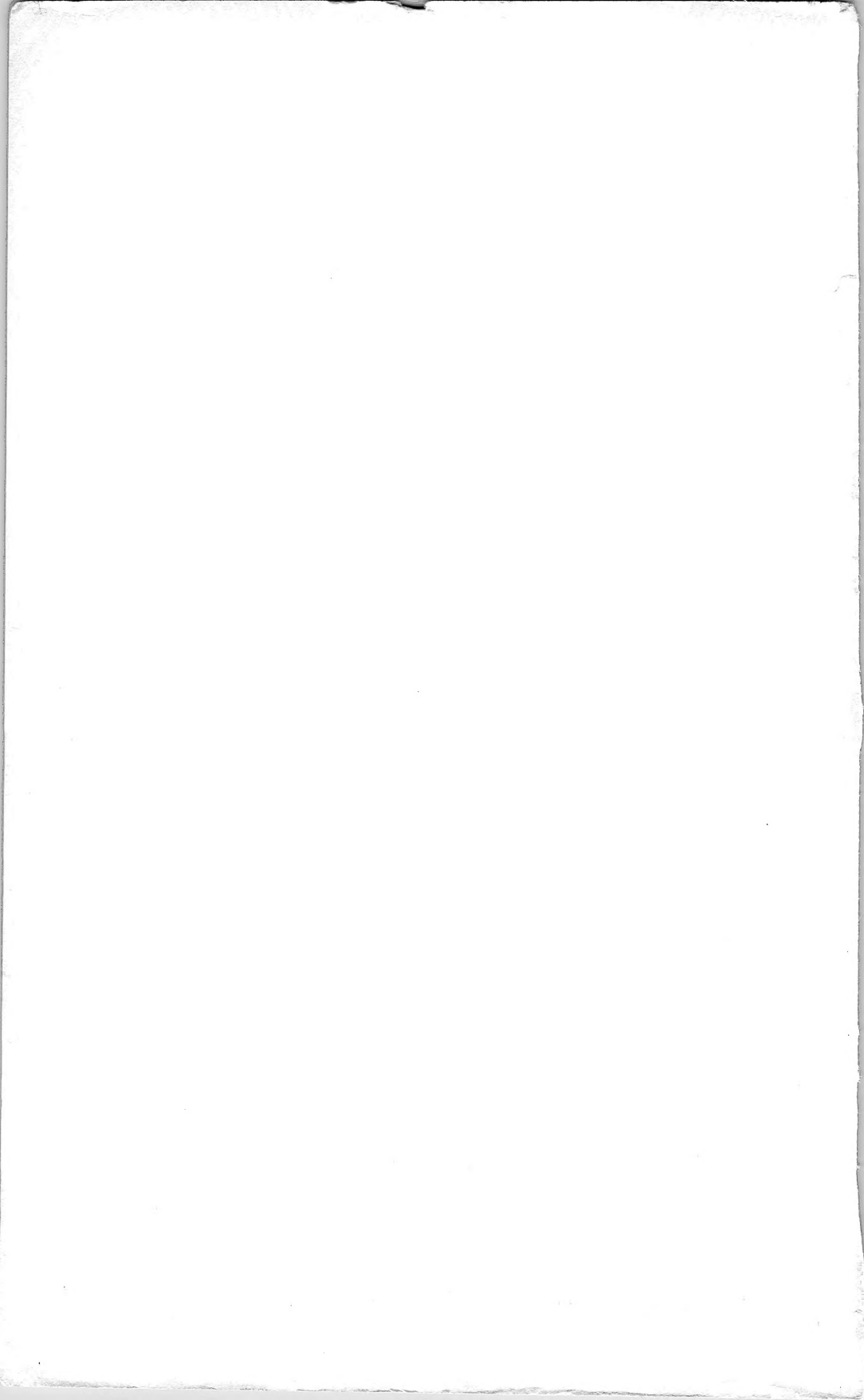


HISTORY

of the
First United Methodist Church

Buckhannon, West Virginia

By Betty Van Kirk



Buckhannon
First
Methodist Church



1800 - 1945
Haught

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The material for this work has been gathered from the church records, the Annual Conference Minutes, legal records found in the Court Houses of Upshur and Lewis Counties, W. B. Cutright's History of Upshur County, George C. Wilding's Biographical Sketches of early members of the Conference, the very helpful Research Material assembled by Mrs. Beatrice Arnold Giffin, and from personal interviews.

Jerome V. Hall has been very helpful in collecting and checking records of real estate transactions for church and parsonage sites.

Other specific recognitions of the sources of material used, will be found here and there in the text.

Long breaks in the local church records have prevented the presentation of some material essential to the completeness of this work. However, it is probably worth-while in its present form; and its obvious omissions may stimulate us to the discovery of some of the missing data we would like to have.

Thomas W. Haught

Presenting Our Historian

DR. THOMAS WILLIAM HAUGHT, A. M., Sc.D.

The First Methodist Church of Buckhannon is fortunate in having as its historian Dr. Thomas W. Haught because of his knowledge of its life and because of his constant desire for accuracy.

Dr. Haught in his young manhood came to Buckhannon in the spring of 1891. He was a student at Wesleyan in the latter part of the very first year of the school's life when it was not yet doing work on the college level. He took his A. B. degree at West Virginia University and did his graduate work at Harvard University. However, it is still true that his connection with Buckhannon has been without an extended interruption for more than fifty-four years.

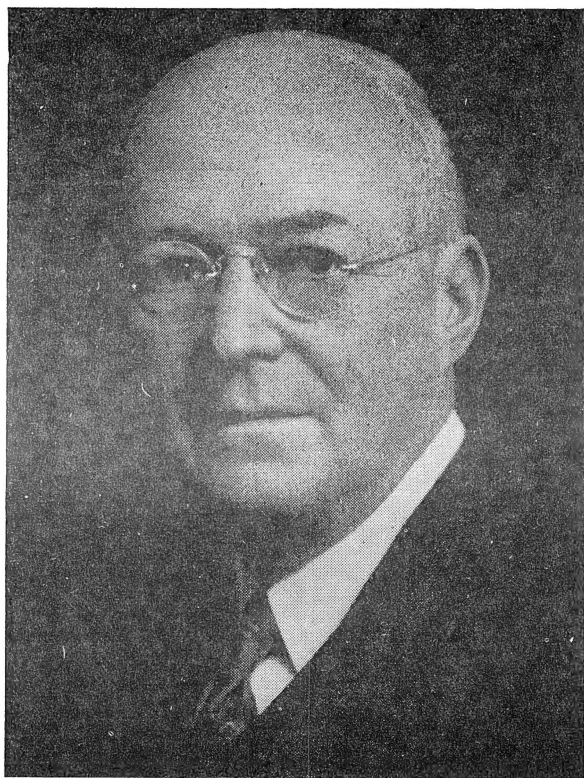
Here he found his wife, Helen Grace Wetmore. His children were born and educated here. As an active and honored member of his church he has intimately known its members, and shared responsibilities with its officers. His scientific habits assure accuracy, a search for all the facts, and skill in evaluating them. Such ability is indicated by his training; it is certified by his Phi Beta Kappa recognition; and it is demonstrated by the achievement of his life.

We salute Dr. Thomas William Haught, A. M., Sc.D., our historian.

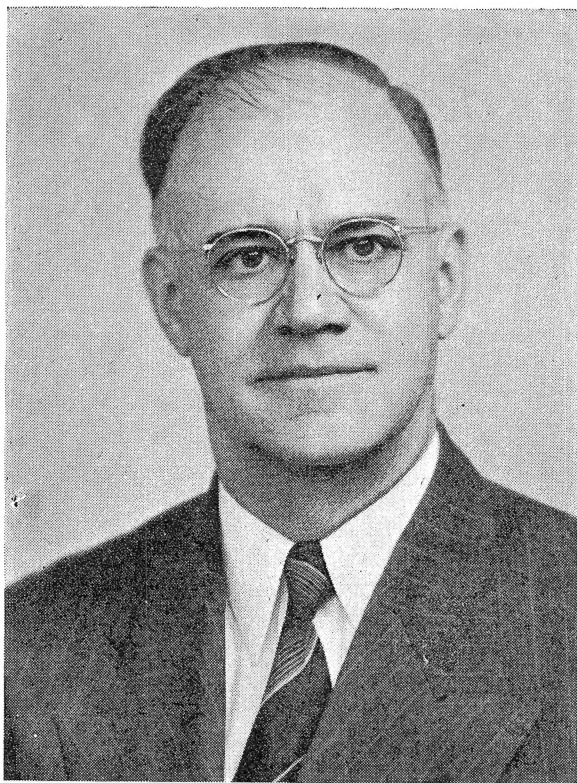
Signed:

The Committee on Anniversary





JAMES H. STRAUGHN D. D., LL.D.
Resident Bishop



HUGH E. KELSO, D. D.
District Superintendent



ROSS LINGER
Pastor Since 1940

INTRODUCTION

The known sources of information, as this is being written, are not quite clear as to the year when the first house of worship for Methodists was built in Buckhannon. Tradition and some family records indicate that the time was the early 1820's. While the deed transferring the title to the site from Abraham Carper Sr. to the trustees of the church bears the date, June 14, 1834.

But the date of the deed, while interesting, is not proof that the date of the erection of the building was as late as 1834. In more recent time when facilities were much more convenient than then, leaders in worthy community enterprises have been known to take ownership for granted on the word of a responsible citizen, and erect buildings before securing title to the site. Such procedure is more likely to occur, also, when the consideration is small, as in this case, only twenty dollars.

The word, church, has a variety of closely related meanings. One of these is the building in which an organized group of Christians assemble to worship. But another and more vital definition of a church is, "A formally organized body of Christian believers worshipping together". It will be noted that this definition bears no reference to the place where they assemble.

There is evidence that among the early pioneers their homes were the first meeting places of these organized bodies of Christian believers. Perhaps some years elapsed, in many instances, before the logical location of a community meeting house became apparent. When these things are considered, it appears likely that the first body of Methodist worshipers in the Buckhannon community was organized at least as early as the year 1820. It may have occurred some years earlier. This date is accepted until, or unless, evidence should be discovered justifying its revision. (See next two items.)

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This note and the section following were written, on the discovery of some significant data, when we were about to place the manuscript of this history in the hands of the printer.

The author has pursued a conservative policy in the matter of accepting traditions without a reasonable measure of historical support. We had heard that, beginning in the year 1800, the Abraham Carper home was a center of Methodist activity. But was it integrated with the conference organization? This we did not know.

When the Rev. Dr. Reger wrote of the July 6, 7, 1805 Quarterly Conference of the Clarksburg Circuit he must have had the record before him. He presents his material with a detail that leaves no room for doubt. Of the 24 appointments represented in the meeting, 22 reported their cash collections. He names these amounts, gives the

names of the Presiding Elder and the two circuit pastors, (see list of pastors) and tells exactly what part of the total each received as expense and as quarterage. The Carper appointment reported the sum of \$2.47. The average of the 22 appointments was \$2.38.

Local history says that the Carper dwelling was erected in the year 1800. The report above shows that in the year 1805 it was a conference appointment. We have at hand no church records for the period between 1800 and 1805 to tell us in which of these five years it acquired the status of an appointment. Historical facts have carried us far toward the tradition that Methodist activity began in Buckhannon in the year 1800, following the establishment of the Carper home. The author inclines to the acceptance of this date as the beginning of the local First Methodist Society, even if a score of years were yet to elapse before the building of a house of worship. Holding church services in homes was, then, more the rule than the exception.

WHERE THE BUCKHANNON FIRST METHODIST SOCIETY BEGAN

Interesting data from two sources indicate that the First Methodist Society of Buckhannon had its beginning on what is now the Wesleyan Campus. The two sources referred to are Cutright's History of Upshur County and the manuscripts of the late Rev. Dr. John W. Reger.

From the first we learn that in the year 1800 Abraham Carper Sr. moved his family from the vicinity of Moorfield, Va. to a nameless region, and built in a dense forest a log house located on a site within the present campus of Wesleyan College. This was the first house erected within the corporate limits of what is now Buckhannon.

Here were held class, and prayer meetings and regular preaching services until about the year 1820 when a log meeting house was built on a site between (the present) Kanawha Street and the hill a little west of the College Avenue corner.

This log church was used till the year 1850 when it was moved to a site near Depot Street and used as a work shop until it was destroyed by fire a little later.

It will be noted that the date, 1850, coincides closely with the date of the erection of the frame church on the Post Office site.

From the second source we have the report of a Quarterly Conference of the Clarksburg Circuit held July 6, 7, 1805 at the Benjamin Webb (Bridgeport) preaching appointment, giving the names

of 24 of the 28 appointments in the circuit. We infer that the four not named were without representation in the Quarterly Conference. The names of the 24 appointments, with but one exception, Morgantown, indicate that the preaching services were held in private homes.

Among these was the Abraham Carper appointment, of which the Rev. Dr. Reger says: "The house in which they preached, Abraham Carper's Sr. stood on the northeast corner of the West Virginia Conference Seminary (Wesleyan College) grounds, and was used as a preaching place and for all other meeting purposes for 30 years, when a log church (the Carper church) was built on the opposite side of the French-Creek road (Kanawha Street) from the Academy (corner Kanawha St. and College Ave.). It was a good, comfortable log building in keeping with the improvements of the time. Later there was a large frame church built in the town.

The location of the Carper home as here given, is near the Camden Avenue railroad crossing, probably on the slight elevation found there just inside the College grounds. If so, the choice of the site is a tribute to the builder's sense of beauty as well as his economic realism. *

Neither one of these two accounts presumes to give the exact date of the erection of the log church. But they are in substantial agreement on the point that the organized society of Buckhannon Methodists dates from the year 1800 or very soon thereafter; and that for a period of at least two decades the headquarters of the society were in the Abraham Carper home.

The 28 appointments of the Clarksburg Circuit, according to the Rev. Dr. Reger, were scattered over a large area of hilly and rolling country, with a network of waters reaching and spreading in every direction. Many of the streams were deep, rapid and treacherous, and all of them were unbridged. Traveling was done over trails, and the appointments were far apart.

It was 75 miles from the Morgantown appointment to the upper appointments of the West Fork of the Monongahela. But in making the round, following the zigzag course necessary to reach all the appointments, the preacher traveled three times that distance.

The dwellings were log-cabin style built of round logs to a story and a half in height, with, here and there, a double cabin having a chimney between. Benches were made of split logs fitted with legs.

In such structures all their meetings were held, embracing class, prayer, and two-day meetings, preaching services and Quarterly

*Anna M. Edmiston and Alvin Carper, of the family line give the located as being not far from the intersection of Florida and Barbour streets.

Conferences. Many of these dwellings consisted of but one room, which was used as chapel, parlor, sitting room, library, dining room, kitchen, and bed room.

As communities grew and school houses were built, these were used for preaching places. As late as the year 1837 much of the preaching was done in private homes and in school houses.

THE CARPER CHURCH AND SUBSEQUENT ONES

The Carper Church was the first of four erected and occupied by the original Methodist Society in Buckhannon and their successors to date, 1945. It has been described as a log structure, and its finishing and furnishing were, no doubt, in keeping with the pioneer atmosphere of the time. Its location will be found defined in item one under the head of "Church and Parsonage Sites". This structure, together with possible earlier meeting places in the homes of the members of the society continued in use about thirty years, until 1850 or early in the year 1851.

In the year 1849 the society purchased a new site, a portion of the lot now occupied by the Federal Post Office. The exact date when the new edifice was completed and occupied on this lot has not been clearly established. But Beatrice Arnold Giffin's research has discovered records showing that in July 1851 the County Court rented some facilities in the church for use while they were building the Court House for the new County of Upshur.

This building continued in use by the society during the next thirty or thirty-one years. Then it was removed to make room on the same lot for the third of the series, which was dedicated in the year 1883.

It is noted here that some of the members of the present congregation remember that, while the old building was being removed and the new one was being built, the society met for some of its services in the Episcopal Church on West Main Street, at that time the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The second building of the series was a frame structure, and the third was constructed of brick. The third, or brick church, dedicated in 1883, continued in use about twenty eight years till some months before the dedication of the present one on May 28, 1911.

These changes of location raise the interesting question: Why do congregations leave old sites for new? Many things may contribute to making a change. But, perhaps, the most compelling reason is the desire to make the site as central as possible to the homes of its members.

The writer recalls that, when Dr. Clark, the pastor, was counseling with his committee on the present location, he made a survey of the locations of the homes of the members of his congregation. His survey showed that to be near the center of his Methodist population the change of location was necessary. In twenty years the effect of the location of the Methodist school, and the conversion of South

Buckhannon from farm land into a residence district had been to leave the meeting house on the edge of the Methodist community. It is interesting to note that, in changing to the present site, we moved toward the Carper location about half the way.

One fancies that the construction of the Staunton and Parkersburg turnpike, which was completed about the time of the purchase of the second location, the Post Office lot, centered the population along Main Street, a section of the highway, as Buckhannon became a town.

CHURCH AND PARSONAGE SITES

Following is a condensed statement of all the real-estate transactions for and in behalf of the Church, and the names of the church trustees at the time of the purchase or sale. The transactions are given in the chronological order of the purchases.

1. Abraham Carper, Sr. to George Carper, John Dean, Isaac Dix, Henry Reger, Philip Reger, Benjamin Rohrbough, and John W. Westfall, trustees.

Date, June 14, 1834; Record, Lewis County Deed Book E, page 357.

Location, Kanawha Street on ground known as Rollins lot on southeast corner of said street and the road up the water-tank hill. This is the site of the original church building, a log structure known generally as the "Carper Church" or "Carper Chapel".

2. George Bastable & Wife, Mary, and Zadok Lanham and Wife, Elizabeth, to Elias Bennett, George Carper, Isaac Dix, Jackson Shultz, and James Ward, trustees for the parsonage.

Date, May 9, 1846; Record, Lewis County, Deed Book M, page 164.

Location, to the rear of the Court House. This property was a circuit parsonage, the Buckhannon Church being a part of the circuit. Its sale, January 15, 1867, by the trustees of the Buckhannon Church was authorized by a special act of the West Virginia Legislature. The trustees officiating in the sale were John G. Dix, Elias Heavner, N. C. Loudin, Clark W. McNulty, Phillip F. Pinnell, Jacob Rohrbough, and Marshall L. Rohrbough.

Record of Sale, Deed Book I page 283.

3. Nathaniel Farnsworth and Susanna Farnsworth, his wife, to Joseph Ambrose, Wm. E. Balsley, Clark W. McNulty, David S. Pinnell, Henry Reger, Jacob Rohrbough, John M. Rohrbough, Jackson Shultz, and Adam Spitler, trustees.

Date and record, September 10, 1849, Deed Book A, page 143.

Location, Items 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 are five parcels comprising one lot now occupied by the Federal Post Office.

4. Charles and Edmonia Mylius to John G. Dix, Elias Heavner, Nicholas Heavner, Anthony Reger, and Jacob Rohrbough, trustees.

Date and record, May 22, 1875; Deed Book J, page 523.

Location, west side of, and adjoining the lot on which the Episcopal Church is located, on West Main Street. It was purchased for a parsonage and was sold after eight years, October 20, 1883, to

Luther P. Shinn. The trustees making the sale were P. M. Boggess, John G. Dix, Elias Heavner, N. C. Loudin, Phillip Pinnell, Marshall Rohrbough, and Jacob Waugh. Record of Sale, Deed Book P, page 422.

5. Nicholas Heavner to P. M. Boggess, John G. Dix, N. C. Loudin, Phillip F. Pinnell, and Marshall L. Rohrbough, trustees.

Date and record, March 3, 1885; Deed Book R, page 172.

Location, adjoining purchase number 3.

6. Philip G. Heavner to P. M. Boggess, J. W. Heavner, S. S. Leonard, N. C. Loudin, A. M. Poundstone, and Marshall L. Rohrbough.

Date and record, January 30, 1888; Deed Book V, page 288.

Location, adjoining purchase number 3.

7. G. A. Newlon and Wife to P. M. Boggess, T. G. Farnsworth, J. W. Heavner, S. S. Leonard, N. C. Loudin, A. M. Poundstone, Luther P. Shinn, and W. D. Talbott, trustees.

Date and record, May 9, 1902; Deed Book 32, page 357.

Location, adjoining purchase number 3.

8. Nathan L. and Mary Elizabeth Bumgartener to C. L. Barlow, T. G. Farnsworth, George K. Gay, J. W. Heavner, F. M. Pritchard, A. M. Poundstone, R. A. Reger, Luther P. Shinn, and U. G. Young, trustees..

Date and record, February 3, 1909; Deed Book 50, page 278.

Location, the present church site, corner of Florida and Latham Streets.

9. C. C. Higginbotham, Administrator, de bonis non, with will annexed of G. A. Newlon, deceased, to C. L. Barlow, T. G. Farnsworth, Geo. K. Gay, J. W. Heavner, A. M. Poundstone, F. M. Pritchard, R. A. Reger, Luther P. Shinn and U. G. Young, trustees.

Date and record, July 12, 1911; Deed Book 54, page 238. This parcel is a part of the Post Office lot consisting of items 3, 5, 6, 7, 9. Item nine was purchased to make the dimensions of the whole area meet government specifications for the Post Office grounds. A month later lacking one day, August 11, 1911, the trustees named in item nine transferred the title of the lot, consisting of the five parcels indicated, to the United States for the consideration of ten thousand dollars. Deed Book 54, page 173.

10. The P. D. Forman heirs to W. C. Carper, Thos. W. Haught, Myron B. Hymes, A. G. Shannon, and B. F. Whitescarver, trustees.

Date, Location and record, January 8, 1945; Lot fronting on Florida Street, between the church and the nearest alley on the north side.

Recorded in Deed Book 110, page 310.

The foregoing transactions are presented here in detail with a twofold aim. In the first place, the purchases of real estate for church purposes, and the subsequent sale of the same, when no longer needed, are a part of the church history. In the second place, the official records of the church for the first fifty years are so imperfect and incomplete, that the names appearing in these legal transactions are the



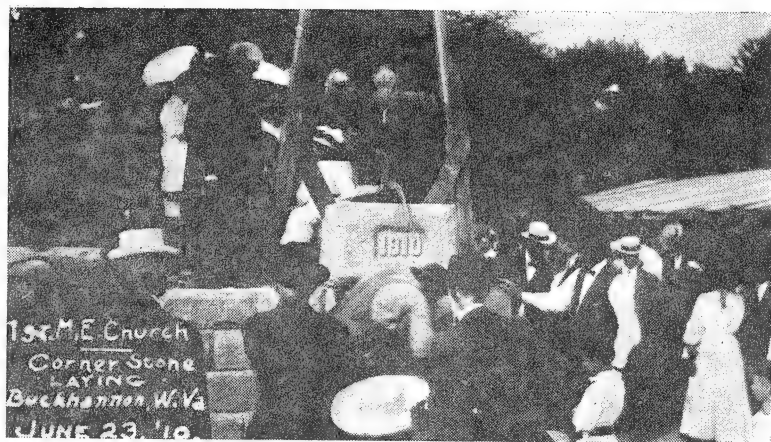
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Dedicated May 28, 1911

BUILDING COMMITTEE

S. C. Rusmisell, G. W. Fish, Wm. Post

C. L. Barlow, U. G. Young



**Corner-Stone Ceremony
June 23, 1910**



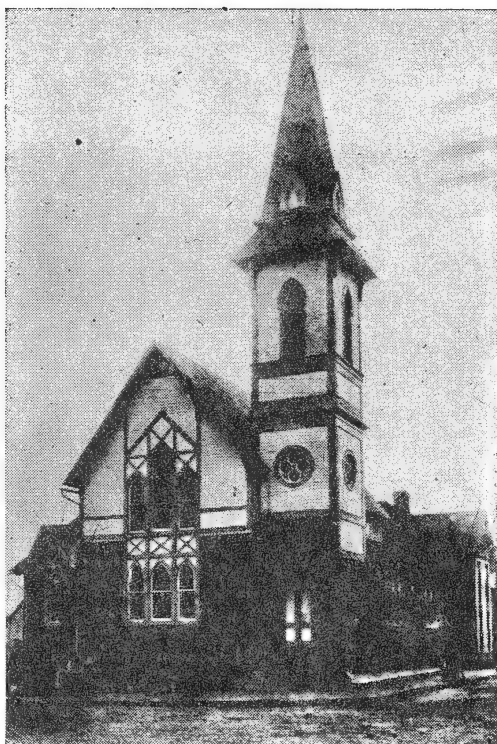
Interior View. Taken about 1911
—Courtesy of Mrs. Eleanor Williams



HYRE D. CLARK, Ph.D., D.D.

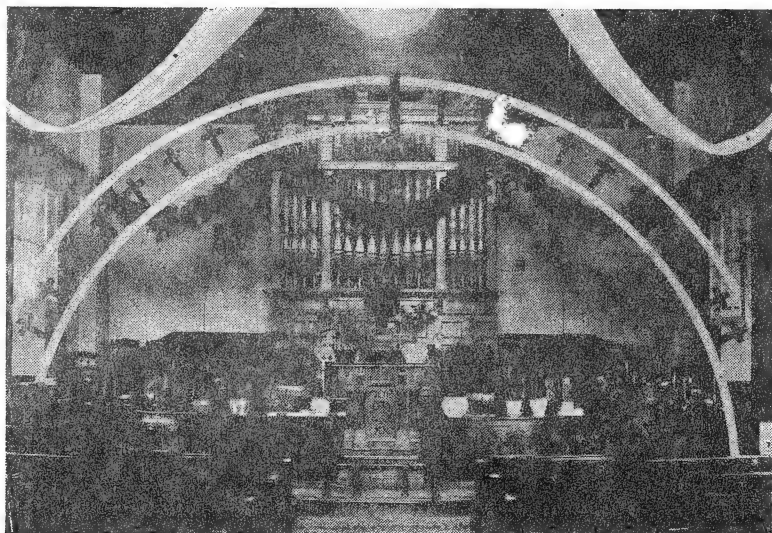
Pastor 1907-1915

**Whose unflagging zeal and energy made our
dream come true**



**3rd. House of Worship, 2nd. On Post Office Lot
1883-1910**

— Murmurmontis, 1904

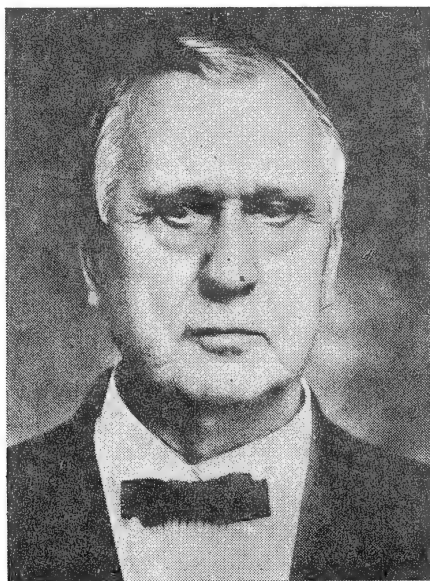


Interior View With Easter Trimmings—About 1905

—Courtesy of T. R. Hall



J. W. REGER
Presiding Elder
1863-4, 1872-6
Pastor
1866-7, 1886
—Courtesy of Mrs. F. P. Maxwell



F. H. J. KING
Pastor 1859—1860
—Courtesy of Miss Alice King

best available present clue to the identity of the leaders in the church during that period of time.

THE PASTORS

The earliest records found, of Methodist pastoral assignments to this general region, are for the year 1787. At that time a pastor's circuit was comparable in size to the whole of the Monongahela Valley lying within the borders of the state. It was customary to assign two or more pastors to the same work. It is unlikely that they reached the remote settlements more than once, or at most, a very few times a year. When more than one pastor was assigned to the same work, it is assumed that the first named was the principal, and the others were assistants taking their instructions from the principal.

In the period between 1787 and 1852 one finds only thirteen years in which but one pastor was assigned to serve the circuit to which Buckhannon belonged. Some of these thirteen omissions may well be errors of the record. Again, for the four-year period 1859-1863 two pastors were assigned to this work each year.

As settlements and Methodist societies multiplied, the original very large circuit was broken up into a rapidly increasing number of smaller ones. The Quarterly Conference minutes show that in the year 1869 this circuit had four appointments, all supporting the pastor. They were Buckhannon, Pleasant Dale, Reger Chapel, and Spruce. This circumstance is in disagreement with the Annual Conference Minutes of 1866, which refer to the Buckhannon assignment as a station. But it is possible that it was a station in the year it was named as such and then reverted to the status of a circuit. It continued to be associated with two or three other appointments at least till 1873, the beginning of an eleven-year break in the record. When the record resumed in the year 1884, and during all the time since, the pastor has received his support from the one church.

Scanning the list of pastoral assignments prior to the year 1850, we may each find here and there a name associated with some tradition we have heard. Otherwise we know very little about these men or the primitive and trying conditions under which they labored.

Between 1850 and 1875, names are a little more frequent that we associate with some definite accomplishment, or they are of persons that, perhaps, we knew in the period of their retirement.

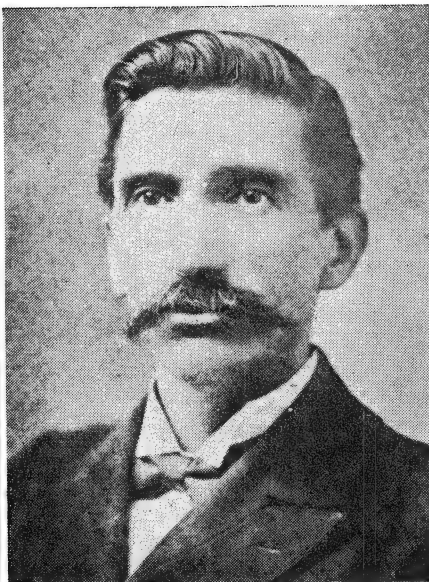
A few now living can remember the pastorates of the middle seventies and can tell us something about the personalities of the pastors. The number who can remember, and the clearness of the memory increase as we approach the turn of the century.

Beginning with the pastorate of the Rev. Asbury Mick in 1895, the remaining ones, ten in all, are framed clearly in the memories of many who can speak easily and freely of their personalities, sermons, pulpit gestures, social qualities, strong and weak points.

To name just a few of the earliest of our ministers known to the maturer members of the present generation, we mention four who wrought well, and then lived on into the memories of many now



F. S. TOWNSEND
Pastor 1900-1907
 —Courtesy of A. S. Townsend



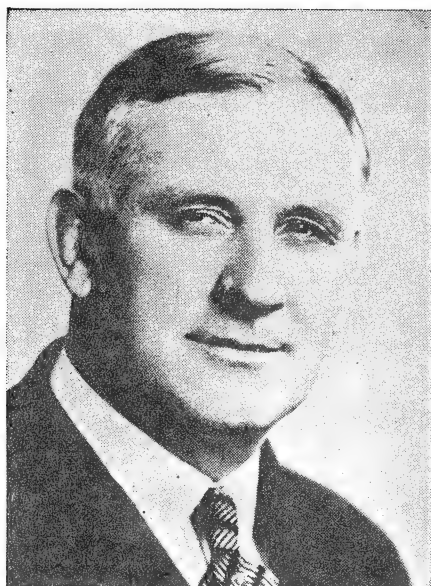
ASBURY MICK
Pastor 1895-1900
 —Murmurmontis, 1904



G. D. SMITH
Pastor 1918-1923
Dist. Supt.
1924-1929



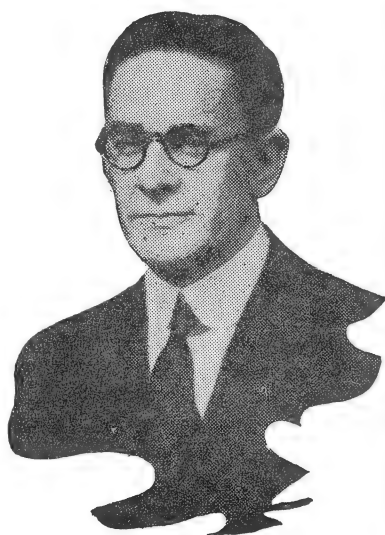
H. C. HOWARD
Pastor 1915-1918
 —Courtesy of Mrs. H. C. Howard



C. E. GOODWIN
Pastor 1929-1934



J. W. ENGLE
Pastor 1923-1929



B. T. TREVEY
Pastor 1938-1940



S. W. BELL
Pastor 1934-1938
 —Courtesy of Mrs. S. W. Bell



J. E. WELLS
District Superintendent
1935-1941



L. E. RESSEGGER
District Superintendent
1910-1916
—Courtesy of Mrs. L. E. Ressegger



L. S. GROSE
District Superintendent
1929-1935



J. B. WORKMAN
District Superintendent
1916-1924



S. D. TAMBLYN
Pastor 1887-1888



JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

living.

A. J. LYDA, who was pastor in the year 1856, was president from 1884 to 1887, of the board of trustees appointed to promote the establishment of a Methodist school here. For some years more he was the board's financial secretary to raise funds for the same purpose.

SAMUEL STEELE was pastor in the years 1857-9, and again in 1884-6. He was also a member of the board of which A. J. Lyda was president.

F. H. J. KING was pastor of the circuit work here in the year 1859. More than forty years later he came back after his retirement and lived among us till the year 1916.

JOHN W. REGER was Presiding Elder of the district in 1863, pastor in 1866, Presiding Elder again, 1872-6, and pastor in 1886. The remaining seven years of his life were devoted almost exclusively to the establishment of our church college here.

HENRY CAMDEN, AN INTERESTING TRADITION

Finding no historical basis among church records for the tradition that one Henry Camden was identified with early religious teaching and church organization in the Buckhannon community, the writer of these annals made search into the genealogy of the Camden family. This search revealed the following: Henry Camden, the grandfather of Senator Johnson Newlon Camden, migrated in the year 1806 from Maryland to the upper waters of the West Fork River in Harrison County, Virginia. "There is a persistent tradition to the effect that he became interested in the Methodist movement, and, falling under the spell of its crusading spirit, sought opportunity for service on the frontier. Though it appears he held no official rank in the clergy of the Methodist Episcopal Church at this time, it is clear that he possessed a strong impulse to preach, and he entered upon active religious missionary work immediately following his arrival at his destination beyond the mountains. . . . This was a fertile field for the self-appointed apostle of Methodism. . . . Of the details of his ministry little is known. It seems that he began his work in the autumn of 1806 as a common exhorter. Possessing rare intellectuality, great reserves of energy, and an education in books sufficient to give sophistication on the frontier, he fell to the task which engaged him intermittently for almost three decades. Though the record is dim, tradition has it that he rode great distances on horseback through the forests; lifted up many a prayer around many a cabin fireside; preached where a few could be gathered together; and finally, after years had passed, established fixed stations where he conducted services by stated appointments. One of these, known to later generations as CARPER'S CHAPEL; was a log church erected in the early 1820's in the growing village of Buckhannon." (The foregoing quotation and other data are taken from Festus P. Summers' book, Johnson Newlon Camden — A Study in Individualism.)

TRADITIONAL EARLY LOCAL METHODIST GATHERINGS

In Cutright's History of Upshur County, on pages 216,217 reference is found to an article written by the Rev. John W. Reger, in which the claim is made that an itinerant Methodist Preacher by the name of Bozeman visited the Volga community as early as the year 1781, and preached to the family and assembled neighbors in the home of John Reger.

The County Historian challenges the statement in the article that Abraham Carper was present in the meeting on the ground that Mr. Carper did not come to this community before the year 1800. We do not find the name, Bozeman, among the members of the Conference then or later, and the claim does not appear to have been made that he was a member of that body. He may have been something of a free lance after the fashion of the Rev. Henry Camden, the proof of whose missionary work among the pioneers is too strongly entrenched to be denied. The anachronism of crediting with attendance at the meeting one who had not yet arrived, may not disprove the main contention that such a meeting was held.

In the County History we learn that about the year 1800, a member of the Baltimore Conference, the Rev. Shadrach Tappan, preached in the home of Abraham Carper, but that no Methodist Class was organized as a result of this meeting. Further, that the first Methodist Society was formed about ten years later in the Volga community with a nucleus of ten persons consisting of Abraham Carper and Wife, Anthony Rohrbough, John Strader, Henry Reger, John Reger, George Bush, Joseph Hall and Wife, and Nancy Bennett.

Though Tappan is credited in the county History as being a member of the Baltimore Conference, his name does not appear on the Conference roll of that time, nor, so far as we have discovered, at any time.

The front name, Shadrach, may have been more common then than now. It occurs twice among those whose conference assignments gave them this community as their field of labor, Shadrach Johnson in 1799, and Shadrach Chaney in 1823,24,26.

These traditions, containing, no doubt, a kernel of truth, require further investigation.

NAMES OF SOME EARLY METHODIST PASTORS ASSIGNED TO A RATHER LARGE AREA INCLUDING THE BUCKHAN- NON COMMUNITY

This early period is in the hazy past, and it is uncertain how many of these men actually ministered to the spiritual needs of the people of this place. Their circuits were so large that their ministrations must have been rather infrequent.

Local leaders, no doubt, helped to carry on, in the intervals between the visits of the pastors.

Very little information is available on the lives and personalities of these pastors. Memorial sketches in the Annual Conference minutes are limited, for the most part, to the period since our separation from the Pittsburgh Conference in the year 1848. The Wesleyan College Library contains a nearly complete file of these minutes. George C. Wilding's book, **PROMOTED PIONEER PREACHERS**, contains a few earlier sketches.

In the list that follows, references will be found to both these sources of information. When the reference is to the book, the initial, W, will be used, followed by the number of the page on which the information will be found. The letter, M, followed by a number representing the year will be used when the reference is to the Annual Conference Minutes. The first such reference is found in the year 1822, following the name of John B. West.

| Date | Pastor | Presiding Elder |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1787 | Robt. Cann, Richard Pearson | Joseph Cromwell |
| 1788 | Jno. Simmons, Geo. Callahan | Richard Whatcoat |
| 1789 | Jacob Lurton, Lasley Matthews | Lemuel Green |
| 1790 | Wm. McLenahan, Geo. Cannon | Charles Conaway |
| 1791 | Lasley Matthews, Thos. Boyd | Amos G. Thompson |
| 1792 | Jno. Watson, Ephraim Chambers | " " |
| 1793 | Valentine Cook, Jesse Stoneman | Charles Conaway |
| 1794 | James Fleming, Henry Smith | " " |
| 1795 | James Fleming, Henry Smith | " " |
| 1796 | Daniel Hitt, Wm. Page | Valentine Cook |
| 1797 | Levin Moore | " " |
| 1798 | James Smith | Daniel Hitt |
| 1799 | Shadrach Johnson | " " |
| 1800 | Robert Manley | " " |

ASSIGNMENTS BY THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE, 1801 TO 1824

| | | | District |
|------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1801 | Thos. Daughaday, John Kewly | Thornton Fleming | Pittsburgh |
| 1802 | Peter B. Davis, Jeremiah Browning | " " | " |
| 1803 | James Hunter, Andrew Hemphill | Thornton Fleming | Pittsburgh |
| 1804 | Noah Fidler, John Holmes | " " | Monongahela |
| 1805 | Robert Manley, Thomas Budd | James Hunter | " |
| 1806 | William Page, Joseph Smith | Thornton Fleming | " |
| 1807 | Asa Shinn, Joseph A. Shackelford | " " | " |
| 1808 | William Knox | " " | " |
| 1809 | William G. Lowman, John Meek | " " | " |
| 1810 | Allen Green, J. W. Hanson | Jacob Gruber | " |
| 1811 | John West, Abraham Daniels | " " | " |
| 1812 | Thornton Fleming, William Shanks | " " | " |
| 1813 | John G. Watt, Jacob Foreman | " " | " |
| 1814 | Robt. Wilson, Joshua Windsor | Christopher Frye | " |
| 1815 | John West, John Bear | " " | " |
| 1816 | Ashby Peole | " " | " |
| 1817 | M. Covert, R. McAllister | " " | " |
| 1818 | John Connelly, N. B. Mills | Asa Shinn | " |

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1819 | John Connelly, P. Buckingham | Asa Shinn | Monongahela |
| 1820 | John Tannyhill, William Hank | Daniel Hitt | " |
| 1821 | Richard Armstrong, Wm. Chapman | " " | " |
| 1822 | Wm. Hank, John B. West (W.48) | James Paynter | " |
| 1823 | Shadrach Chaney, Samuel Ellis | George Brown | " |
| 1824 | Shadrach Chaney, Wm. S. Morgan | " | " |

As the membership of the church at large increased it became necessary to readjust conference boundaries, make administrative areas smaller, and to create new conferences for the sake of administrative efficiency. Thus it came about that the Pittsburgh region, which had begun as a district of the Baltimore Conference, was made a separate conference in 1825, embracing a large area in Western Virginia that had previously been a part of the Baltimore Conference. At the same time the Monongahela Valley became a district of the Pittsburgh Conference. District boundaries, likewise, underwent readjustments placing Buckhannon consecutively in each of three districts, Monongahela, Wheeling, and Clarksburg, while we were a part of the Pittsburgh Conference.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE

| Date | Pastor | Presiding Elder | District |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1825 | William S. Morgan | George Brown | Monongahela |
| 1826 | Shadrach Chaney | Wm. Stevens | " |
| 1827 | John Talbott | " | " |
| 1828 | John Talbott, Moses Tichenel (W.29) | " | " |
| 1829 | Walter Athey | " | " |
| 1830 | Jacob K. Miller, James L. Turner | Robert Hopkins | " |
| 1831 | Jonathan Holt | " | " |
| 1832 | Jeremiah Phillips, Wm. H. Windon | " | Wheeling |
| 1833 | William Leeper | " | " |
| 1834 | J. L. Williams, F. H. Reed | James G. Sansom | " |
| 1835 | J. L. Williams, Hosea McCall | " | " |
| 1836 | Benj. F. Sedwick, Thomas Baker | " | " |
| 1837 | Thomas Baker, Joseph Montgomery | " | Clarksburg |
| 1838 | Joseph Ray, David Cross | " | " |
| 1839 | David Cross, Benj. Haines | " | " |
| 1840 | W. F. Lauck, Allen A. Jamison | William Hunter | " |
| 1841 | Caleb Foster, Allen A. Jamison | " | " |
| 1842 | Moses Tichenel, F. H. Reed | " | " |
| 1843 | F. H. Reed | J. J. Swayze (W.15) | " |
| 1844 | Jacob S. Patterson (W.15) | " | " |
| 1845 | Jacob S. Patterson, H. C. Dean | S. Elliott | " |
| 1846 | Gideon Martin, (W.80) J. F. Burris | " | " |
| 1847 | Gideon Martin, John Ansley, S. G. J. Worthington (W.15) | " | " |

We find the name, Buckhannon, in the conference minutes for the first time, in the appointment of F. H. Reed above for the year 1843.

In the year 1848 further conference readjustments were made, and most of what is now West Virginia became the WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE. It had this name till after the formation of

the new state of West Virginia. But, for convenience, the present name of the conference will be used in listing all appointments between 1848 and the present time, 1945.

WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

| Date | Pastor | Presiding Elder | District |
|------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 1848 | Gideon Martin, John Ansley | S. G. J. Worthington | Clarksburg |
| 1849 | W. C. McCarty, H. Stevens (W.118) | " | " |
| 1850 | F. H. Reed and Supply | " | " |
| 1851 | H. Stevens, R. Woodyard (W.91) | Moses Tichenel (W.29) | " |
| 1852 | H. Stevens, R. Woodyard | " | " |
| 1853 | W. Wilson | " | " |
| 1854 | W. Wilson | " | " |
| 1855 | W. Wilson | Gordon Battelle (W.11) | " |
| 1856 | A. J. Lyda (W.73) | " | " |
| 1857 | Samuel Steele (W.42) | " | " |
| 1858 | Samuel Steele | " | " |
| 1859 | R. L. Brooks, F. H. J. King (M.1916) | John L. Erwin (M.1871) | " |
| 1860 | J. W. Snodgrass (W.118), B. F. Rogers | " | " |
| 1861 | J. W. Snodgrass, H. D. Rice | " | " |
| 1862 | J. M. Powell, H. D. Rice | " | " |
| 1863 | J. M. Powell | John W. Reger (W.58) | " |
| 1864 | T. M. Leslie (W.114) | A. J. Lyda (W.73) | " |
| 1865 | T. M. Leslie | " | " |
| 1866 | John W. Reger (appt. 1st. called station) | " | " |
| 1867 | W. E. Williamson (W.119) | " | " |
| 1868 | W. E. Williamson | Samuel Steele (W.42) | " |
| 1869 | H. C. Sanford (M.1916) | " | " |
| 1870 | H. C. Sanford | " | " |
| 1871 | H. C. Sanford | " | " |
| 1872 | J. T. McCartney (W.121) | John W. Reger (W.58) | Buckhannon |
| 1873 | F. M. Hughes (W.35) | " | " |
| 1874 | F. M. Hughes | " | " |
| 1875 | F. M. Hughes | " | " |
| 1876 | E. S. Wilson (W.123) | T. B. Hughes (W.128) | " |
| 1877 | E. S. Wilson | " | " |
| 1878 | W. E. Loomis (W.130) | W. R. White (W.61) | " |
| 1879 | W. E. Loomis | " | " |
| 1880 | W. E. Loomis | " | " |
| 1881 | W. M. West (W.127) | " | " |
| 1882 | Joseph Lee (M.1912) | " | " |
| 1883 | Joseph Lee | Wm. G. Riheldaffer (W.133) | " |
| 1884 | Samuel Steele (W.42) | " | " |
| 1885 | Samuel Steele (J. W. Reger succeeded) | " | " |
| 1886 | L. H. Jordan | " | " |
| 1887 | S. D. Tamblin (M.1911) | L. H. Jordan | " |
| 1888 | S. B. D. Prickitt (W.130) | " | " |
| | (S. K. Arbuthnot succeeded) | " | " |
| 1889 | M. F. Dryden | " | " |

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1890 | Joseph Lee (M.1912) | L. H. Jordan | Buckhannon |
| 1891 | C. E. Clark (W.135) | " | " |
| 1892 | C. E. Clark | " | " |
| 1893 | C. E. Clark | J. H. Hess (M.1934) | " |
| 1894 | C. E. Clark | " | " |
| 1895 | Asbury Mick (M.1916) | " | " |
| 1896 | Asbury Mick | " | " |
| 1897 | Asbury Mick | " | " |
| 1898 | Asbury Mick | " | " |
| 1899 | Asbury Mick | S. P. Crummett (M.1925) | " |
| 1900 | F. S. Townsend (M.1939) | " | " |
| 1901 | F. S. Townsend | " | " |
| 1902 | F. S. Townsend | " | " |
| 1903 | F. S. Townsend | " | " |
| 1904 | F. S. Townsend | Albert Cameron (M.1906) | " |
| 1905 | F. S. Townsend | " | " |
| 1906 | F. S. Townsend | William Anderson (M.1937) | " |
| 1907 | H. D. Clark (M.1938) | " | " |
| 1908 | H. D. Clark | " | " |
| 1909 | H. D. Clark | " | " |
| 1910 | H. D. Clark | L. E. Ressegger (M.1940) | " |
| 1911 | H. D. Clark | " | " |
| 1912 | H. D. Clark | " | " |
| 1913 | H. D. Clark | " | " |
| 1914 | H. D. Clark | " | " |
| 1915 | H. C. Howard (M.1942) | " | " |
| 1916 | H. C. Howard | J. B. Workman (M.1942) | " |
| 1917 | H. C. Howard (Richard Aspinall succeeded) | " | " |
| 1918 | G. D. Smith | " | " |
| 1919 | G. D. Smith | " | " |
| 1920 | G. D. Smith | " | " |
| 1921 | G. D. Smith | " | " |
| 1922 | G. D. Smith | " | " |
| 1923 | J. W. Engle | " | " |
| 1924 | J. W. Engle | G. D. Smith | " |
| 1925 | J. W. Engle | " | " |
| 1926 | J. W. Engle | " | " |
| 1927 | J. W. Engle | " | " |
| 1928 | J. W. Engle | G. D. Smith and R. C. Brown | " |
| 1929 | C. E. Goodwin (M.1935) | L. S. Grose | " |
| 1930 | C. E. Goodwin | " | " |
| 1931 | C. E. Goodwin | " | " |
| 1932 | C. E. Goodwin | " | " |
| 1933 | C. E. Goodwin | " | " |
| 1934 | S. W. Bell (M.1938) | " | " |
| 1935 | S. W. Bell | J. E. Wells | " |
| 1936 | S. W. Bell | " | " |
| 1937 | S. W. Bell (R. C. Brown succeeded, May 1938) | " | " |

| | | | |
|------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 1938 | B. T. Trevey | J. E. Wells | Buckhannon |
| 1939 | B. T. Trevey | " | " |
| 1940 | Ross Linger | " | " |
| | | District Superintendent | |
| 1941 | Ross Linger | Hugh E. Kelso | " |
| 1942 | Ross Linger | " | " |
| 1943 | Ross Linger | " | " |
| 1944 | Ross Linger | " | " |

SESSIONS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN BUCKHANNON

| Date | Local Pastor | Presiding Bishop | Number of Conference Appointments |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1856 | W. Wilson | Ames | 95 |
| 1884 | Joseph Lee | Walden | 149 |
| 1895 | C. E. Clark | Merrill | 198 |
| 1913 | H. D. Clark | Hamilton | 273 |
| 1926 | J. W. Engle | McConnell | 304 |
| 1935 | S. W. Bell | Leonard | 255 |

The number of appointments is given as an index to the total number of out-of-town guests entertained—always considerably greater.

The figures given do not include special, and detached-service appointments.

The following resolution from the minutes of the Conference of 1856 will be of local interest:

"Resolved, That the sincere and hearty thanks of the Conference are due, and they are hereby tendered to the citizens of Buckhannon and its vicinity, for the kindness and generous hospitality shown us during our present session,

Resolved, That we duly appreciate the kindness and Christian courtesy of the Pastors and Trustees of the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches in Buckhannon, as evinced in granting us use of their houses of worship,

Resolved, That we hereby tender our thanks to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for the reduction of the fare of members of this body, and preachers attending our annual session."

Their appreciation of the railway facilities for travel was, no doubt, increased by comparison with the very rough final thirty or forty miles from Clarksburg or Grafton to Buckhannon by stage coach, horseback, or afoot, at that time. Railway transportation between Clarksburg and Weston was established in 1877, between Weston and Buckhannon in 1882, between Grafton and Philippi in 1883, between Philippi and Buckhannon around the turn of the century.

CHURCH MUSIC AND THE CHOIR

So long ago that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, music has been associated with worship. Perhaps, in all ages and in all human cultures its most characteristic mode of expression has

been by the human voice.

It may be taken for granted, without supporting evidence, that in the earliest pioneer homes and in the first log churches, the singing of the hymns of the time went along with the reading and expounding of the sacred scriptures.

Time, pitch, and harmony in music can be expressed with scientific precision, only by the use of appropriate musical instruments. Hence the use of accompanying devices such as the piano and the organ, operated by persons who have spent years in training to acquire skill in their performance.

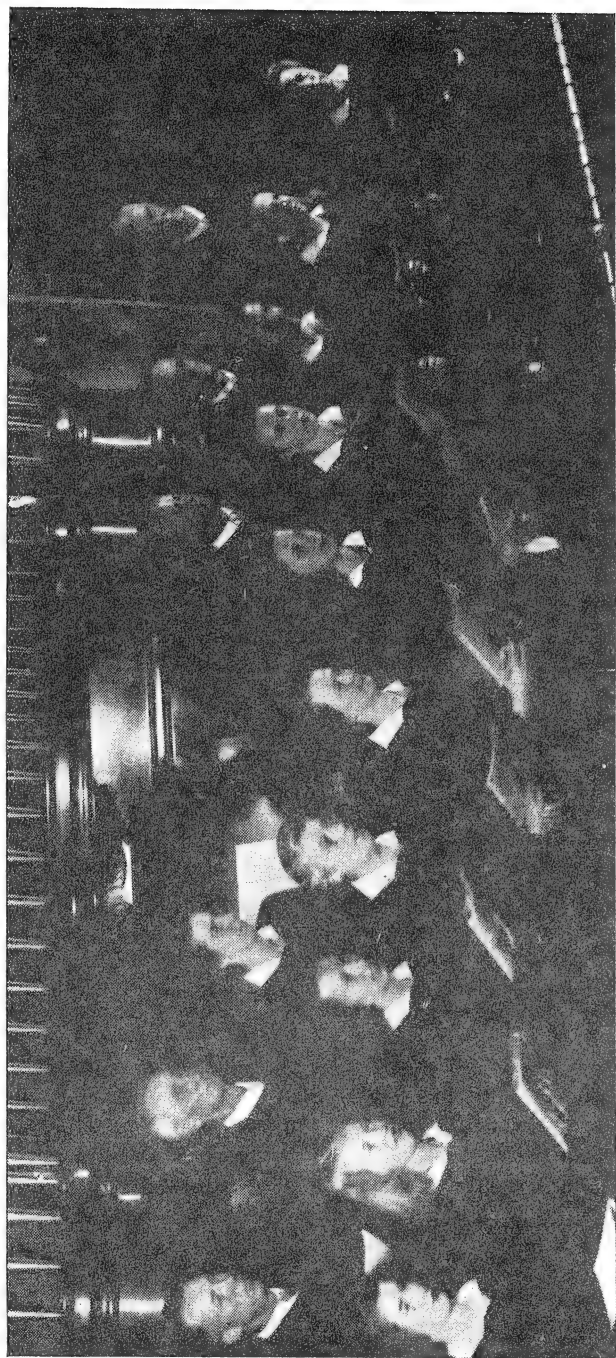
Under pioneer conditions these instrumental aids oftentimes were not available. People had to get along without them, both in their homes and in their churches. In many instances they knew of musical instruments only in places of amusement or where liquor was sold. But to the serious minded pioneer with calloused hands, amusement was almost synonymous with sin. Circumstances such as these described, sometimes became the background for bitter opposition to the use of musical instruments in early churches especially in rural communities. Even Buckhannon is not without its tradition of offended sensibilities here and there when propositions were made to place organs in the churches.

Nothing has been found among the records of the Buckhannon First Methodist Church about the music of its earlier years. Yet we can say with confidence that there was the singing of hymns as a part of their worship.

The writer's memory runs of the time in the early nineties when Capt. Poundstone was the leader of the choir in the church on Main Street where the Post Office now stands. The Captain may have been a member of the choir as early as the year 1868 when he was superintendent of the Sunday School. In the late eighties and early nineties Lillie Pifer (Mrs. U. G. Young) was the organist except for a while when she was pursuing her music studies in Boston. Mary Poundstone Barlow had been the organist a little earlier. Earlier still, perhaps in the early eighties or late seventies Mary Cooper, who became the second wife of the Rev. A. B. Rohrbough, was probably the very first organist of the church, according to evidence discovered by Beatrice Arnold Giffin in her local historical research.

Others who served as director of the choir or as organist are D. T. E. Castele, Eugene Brown, Mrs. Fred L. Williams, Bess Whiting, Ethel Barnhill, Grace Tamblyn (Mrs. Cox), Rose Wittemyer (Mrs. Trevey), Frank Muzzy, Alice Hughes (Mrs. Harvey), C. W. Foltz, Paul Wonnberger, Mrs. Allen Hamner, Mrs. W. C. Manser. The meager data available does not enable us to arrange these names in the chronological order of their periods of service.

Perhaps Miss Whiting was the first organist to receive any remuneration for her service. The vacancy existed and the music committee invited her to fill it. She suggested that she ought to be paid something for her service. This created a good deal of comment in the church. Apparently the oldest inhabitant couldn't recall any



SENIOR CHOIR — 1945

LEFT TO RIGHT, FRONT ROW: Eloise Bowyer, Leoma Linger, Dorothy Dutton, Mrs. L. H. Chrisman, Mrs. W. C. Manser, Director; Mrs. Carl Wilfong, Dorothy Lee Cade, Mrs. W. S. Overstreet, Mrs. Amy Bowyer.
 REAR ROW: Fred M. Wilt, H. E. Dawson, Mrs. Allen T. Hamner, Organist; Perce Ross, F. O. Leonard, O. D. Arnold.
 NOT APPEARING IN THE PICTURE: Elizabeth Barlow, H. C. Brake, Mrs. Ralph C. Brown, Jr.; Roberta Roberts, Marion Stevens, Mrs. Betty Hoffman Tabscott.



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' CHOIR — 1945

APPEARING IN THE PICTURE: Bail, Julia; Bowyer, Eloise; Dutton, Dorothy; Fisher, Helen; Griffiths, Wilma; Hamner, Mrs. Allen T., Organist; Hymes, Carol Ann; Jack son, Marilyn; Linger, Leoma; Manser, Mrs. W. C., Director; Rexroad, Ellen Jane; Ruimsell, Mary Lee; Smaltri dge, Mary Catherine; Smith, Winona; Stalnaker, Carol Jean; Thompson, Grace; Weaver, Jennibelle.

NOT APPEARING IN THE PICTURE: Bailey, Lucille; Beer, Vonda. Rae; Beer, Wanda Lou; Billingsley, Sue; Chidester, Helen; Fish, Barbara; Fox, Joan; Hannah, Patricia; Vaughn, Jo Ann.

precedent for paying an organist. Moreover, was she not a teacher in our Methodist school? And as such shouldn't she be expected to give generously of her talent and skill for the benefit of the church? However, she won her point, and the church has given a modest remuneration for this service to most, perhaps to all, organists since that time.

Nothing in the record, found to date, fixes accurately the time when the first pipe organ was installed. Such evidence as there is, indicates that the time was the late eighties or, possibly, the year 1890. Lillie Pifer (Mrs. U. G. Young) was the organist when this was done. For length of service in this capacity Mrs. Young and Mrs. Williams are, we believe, in a class apart from all the others. Just how many years did each serve? The annalist doesn't know and, perhaps, they, themselves, do not know. Domestic responsibilities, a very comprehensive term, caused some interruptions in both cases, so that finding the total time in either case would be like putting together the parts of a puzzle. Memory tells us that each served a goodly number of years, and efficiently.

Pipe organs must be adapted to their auditoriums. This means that the volume of sound, as well as the quality, must be correctly related to the size of the room. The organ in the small church on Main Street could not be used in the larger church on Florida Street. The present organ, like the church, is entering upon its thirty fifth year of service.

Choirs have sometimes been called the War Department of the church. Mrs. Giffin relates an instance when a certain member of the choir was the only one that could qualify for a certain part because she happened to be the only one not present and taking sides when the choir had a particularly stormy practice session. If there is currently such friction, our choir is doing a masterpiece of covering up. Contacts with members of the congregation give one the comfortable feeling that, under the efficient leadership of Mrs. Manser, the director, and Mrs. Hamner, the organist, a service is being rendered that leaves no ground for criticism or complaint.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Just when a Sunday School was first organized in the church has not been ascertained. But, like most communities developing from rural conditions, there may have been a period when the Sunday School was an active organization from mid-spring to mid-autumn only.

The earliest quarterly conference records available are for the year 1868. Between 1868 and the present time there are two long gaps in the record, one from 1873 to 1884, the other from 1896 to 1920. Our memory helps us somewhat in bridging the second gap.

In the quarterly conference minutes we find confirmations of Sunday School superintendents as follows:



THE O'BRIEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



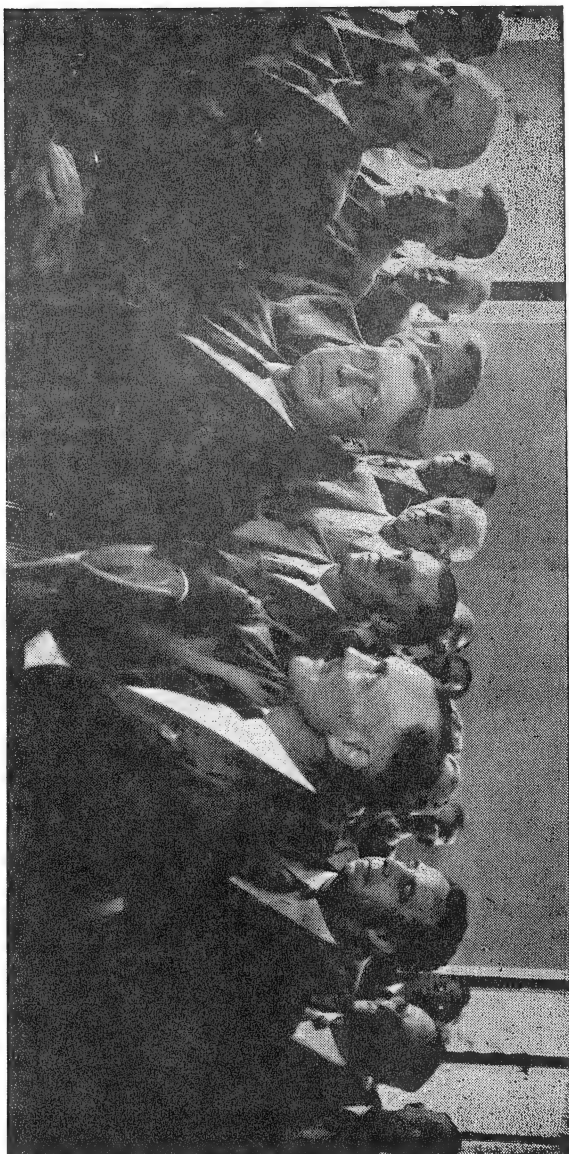
THE F. H. J. KING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

—Courtesy of Mrs. F. O. Leonard

THE O'BRIEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

All but one have been identified as follows: Cecelia Alexander, Mrs. Arnett, Mrs. Morgan Bailey, Lona Carper, Nellie Chidester, Mrs. G. A. Claggett, Lelah Curry, Iva Cutright, Gladys Ervin, Mrs. T. B. Farnsworth, Eva Fultz, Mrs. T. R. Hall, Grace Hathaway, Mrs. Chas. Huffman, Mrs. Hall Jackson, Mrs. F. F. Jones, Daisy Leonard, Mrs. Clifton Martin, Mrs. Frank Martin, Lucy McNemar, Gertrude Meadows, W. S. O'Brien, Mrs. W. S. O'Brien, Brenda Ours, Mrs. L. W. Page, Nellie Post, Mrs. Fred Rusmisell, Mrs. S. J. Sipe, Grace Smith, Dora Watkins, Ada Williams, Mrs. Hugh Young, U. G. Young.

—Courtesy of Mrs. F. F. Jones



MEN'S BIBLE CLASS — 1945 Ross Bonar, teacher

Harold Abbott, Newton Anderson, W. E. Arnett, O. D. Arnold, G. E. Ashworth, Carl Beer, A. K. Brake, R. L. Brooks, S. W. Carpenter, Willis Casto, Ray Colerider, Brown Cressler, Freal Crites, John Curry, H. E. Dawson, G. E. Drummond, Hugh Fidler, T. C. Fisher, W. B. Fleming, A. L. Gibson, A. M. Gladwell, R. A. Glick, Jerrold Haddix, B. A. Hall, T. R. Hall, W. W. Harper, Dewey Harris, J. L. Harvey, Harry Hynes, Will Jennings, Percy Karickhoff, F. O. Leonard, W. T. McWhorter, S. E. Phillips, Paul Pifer, Carl Queen, R. W. Rexroad, A. G. Shannon, John Shaw, W. T. Taylor, S. C. Weaver, Fred M. Will, Earl W. Young.

Several of these do not appear in the picture.

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1868— | A. M. Poundstone |
| 1873— | C. G. Rapp |
| 1884—1888— | J. W. Heavner |
| 1889—1893— | W. D. Talbot |
| 1893—1913— | U. G. Young |
| 1913—1937— | H. Roy Waugh |
| 1937—1938— | R. C. Brown |
| 1938—1940— | Ross Bonar |
| 1940—1943— | Carl R. Beer |
| 1943—1945— | James L. Hupp |

In the one-room day school the classes followed each other in orderly succession from opening time in the morning till closing time in the afternoon. In the one-room Sunday School where the whole program was comprehended in a period of an hour to an hour and a half, there had to be a multiplication of teachers, and all class work was conducted in the same room at the same time. This resulted in great confusion. The foregoing description represents the norm. It is, no doubt, descriptive of the early Sunday Schools in Buckhannon. Indeed, in the church structure preceeding the present one, two small class rooms and a small balcony provided the only escape from the general confusion resulting from six, eight, or ten classes carrying on in one room at one time.

The solution of the problem of confusion presented in the preceding paragraph seems to be the multiplication of class rooms to provide a degree of separation of the classes. In the present building a large approach has been made toward that goal.

Following the unification of the three Methodist denominations in the year 1940, the educational interests of local churches were given a more comprehensive program and an organization in keeping with their wider range of activities. The last two of the superintendencies listed above belong to this new plan of organization.

Perhaps, to signalize this wider range of functions, the name of the organization has been changed from Sunday School to CHURCH SCHOOL. The following outline of these activities in our local church has been prepared by Superintendent Hupp at our request.

CHURCH SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

1944-1945

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| James L. Hupp | Superintendent |
| Nellie G. Wilson | Director of Christian Education |
| John Anthony | Secretary-Treasurer |
| Edith Hall | Literature |
| Mrs. H. D. Potter | Nursery Home Visitor |
| Mrs. Eleanor Williams | Home Department |
| Mrs. Heyward Williams | Supt. Children's Division |
| Mrs. Mary Alice Thurman | Supt. Youth Division |
| Wallace B. Fleming | Supt. Adult Division |

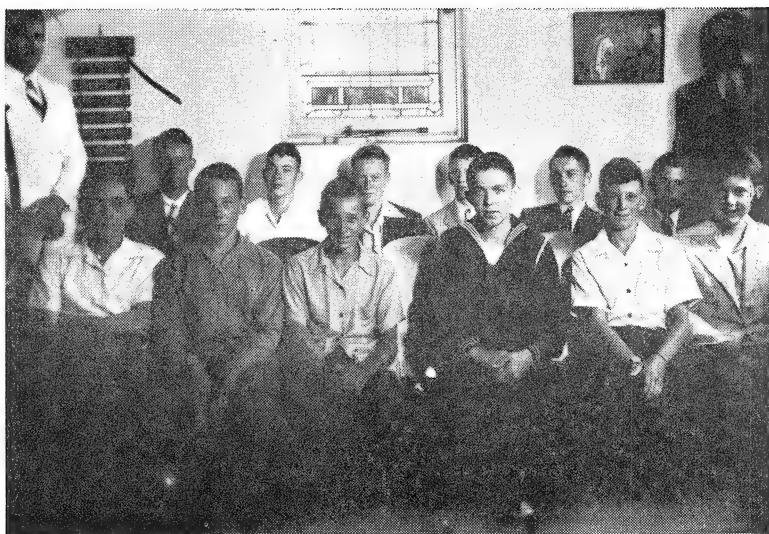


WOMAN'S BIBLE CLASS

Only 19 of these are shown in the class picture.

MISSES: May Bond, Florence Crawford, Lela Curry, Grace Hathaway, Grace Metheny.

MESDAMES: Lenora Bennett, Jacob Bos, Ralph C. Brown, Rhoda Brake, Edgar Carpenter, Frank Carper, Willis Casto, Ray Colerider, J. A. Cosgrove, John Curry, Ora Curry, T. C. Fisher, W. B. Fleming, Mary Folk, A. L. Gibson, Wallace Gould, P. D. Gregory, J. E. Haddix, B. A. Hall, Lucetta Hall, C. E. Hamrick, Dewey Harris, T. W. Haught, John Hinkle, Zona Jackson, W. W. Jett, Percy Karickhoff, Frank Leonard, Ross Linger, Ralph Loudin, W. T. McWhorter, Woodson Martin, D. D. Marple, Worth Mick, Rachel Ogden, W. S. Overstreet, H. L. Price, Carl Queen, A. J. Reed, Brenda Reger, H. W. Ruble, Dora Skidmore, O. E. Smallridge, Carrie Stanley, Hill Stump, E. W. Thacker, Jennie Vincent, Dora Watkins, S. C. Weaver, Thomas F. Weaver, Rose Woofert.



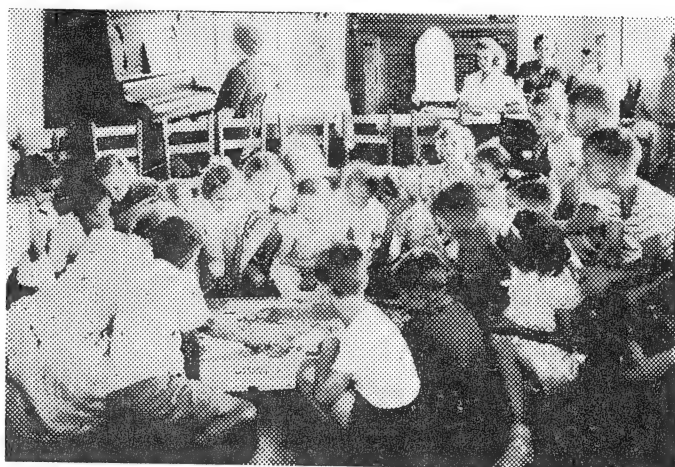
SENIOR BOYS' CLASS



INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT



BEGINNER CHILDREN LISTEN TO A STORY
 —Courtesy of W. S. Overstreet



PRIMARY LEARNS WHERE CHILDREN OF CONGO LIVE
 —Courtesy of W. S. Overstreet

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

Nursery (ages 2-3)—Mrs. H. D. Potter Counselor
Beginners (ages 4-5) — Mrs. J. E. Judson . . Counselor
Primary (Grades 1,2,3) — Mrs. S. O. Phillips Counselor
Junior (Grades 4,5,6) — Mrs. E. K. Griffiths Counselor

YOUTH DIVISION

Intermediate (grades 7, 8, 9) Mrs. Marian Hamrick and
Miss Nancy Goodwin Counselors
Senior (grades 10,11,12) Mrs. Helen Dias Counselor
Young People (ages 18-22) Miss Nellie Wilson . . Counselor

ADULT DIVISION

Young Adult (ages 23-35) — Ralph C. Brown Teacher
Men's Class — Ross Bonar Teacher
Women's Class — Mrs. Hugh E. Kelso Teacher

The Youth Division of the Church School has a separate or modified organization for their evening sessions. The names of the subdivisions and the corresponding age groups of the members are the same as in the Youth Division given in the preceding outline for the Church School. But the over-all name of the Division as organized for evening services is THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP. The presidents of the three subdivisions, Young People, Senior, and Intermediate, for the period from 1941 to 1945 are as follows:

| | Young People | Senior | Intermediate |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1941-2— | Roberta Roberts Robert Hammond | William Phillips | Daniel Farnsworth |
| 1942-3— | Barbara Marshall William Hudson | William Phillips Betty Jane Dutton | Patty Wethered |
| 1943-4— | Robert Hammond | Betty Jane Watkins | Jennibelle Weaver |
| 1944-5— | Jo Whitaker | Dorothy Dutton | Bonnie Bowyer |

These societies are a part of the educational program of the church and are, therefore, integrated with the Church School. One can believe that a part of their heritage is from the Epworth League, a title discarded for the present name, THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP, which, we will grant, does seem more revealing of the nature and the goal of the organizations.

THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY

This organization has left a record of works instead of words. One of the oldest, as well as one of the most important of the church societies, it has left but a meager written record of its activities.

Mrs. Beatrice Arnold Giffin discovered data indicating that the society was active as long ago as the late seventies of the last century. But the oldest minutes of its meetings available as this is being written date from the year 1924.

The following are some of the names associated with the beginning of the society nearly seventy years ago: Mrs. A. M. Poundstone, Mrs. Catherine Heavner Carper, Mrs. Samuel Loudin, Mrs. Nicholas



Ladies' Aid Society

About 1911

—Courtesy of Mrs. H. D. Clark

Believed to be identified in the picture are: Mrs. B. W. Ackles, Mrs. W. E. Arnett, Mrs. Elizabeth Dyer, Mrs. Adam Bird, Mrs. P. M. Boggess, Miss Annie Boggess, Mrs. Eugene Brown, Mrs. J. M. Chidester, Mrs. H. D. Clark, Mrs. Hattie Cressler, Mrs. H. C. Curry, Mrs. Fowkes, Mrs. D. O. B. Hall, Mrs. J. G. Hall, Mrs. Heaton, Mrs. Fay Jones, Mrs. J. E. Martin, Mrs. McCarty, Mrs. C. W. McLaughlin and daughters Nellie and Katherine, Mrs. E. J. Reger, Mrs. J. S. Reger, Mrs. Roy Reger, Mrs. E. O. Ridenour, Mrs. E. J. Rider, Mrs. O. L. Robinson, Mrs. S. C. Rusmisell, Mrs. J. H. Sharps, Mrs. W. J. Sharpes, Mrs. S. J. Sipe, Mrs. J. M. Stockert, Aunt Julia Vandiver.

Loudin, Mrs. Jacob Pifer, Mrs. George Sexton, Mrs. Charles Bailey, Mrs. T. G. Farnsworth, Miss Betty Rapp.

Mrs. H. D. Clark recalls that the president of the society in 1907 was Mrs. J. G. Hall; also that Mrs. Hall served in the same capacity the following year and, according to reports, had been president for a few years prior to 1907.

Rare church bulletins of that period, discovered here or there, give the names of a few more of the presidents prior to 1924. These are included in the list at the end of this article.

The aims and purposes of this society are too well known to call for any clarifying statement of them here. Rather, we address our effort to an appreciation of the spirit and the courage of its members. They pledged and paid five thousand dollars to help in the building of our present house of worship. They generally have underwritten the last one or three or five hundred dollars of any church enterprise that might otherwise fail, they are quick to discern and react to the needs for repairs and replacements in both church and parsonage. They have given generously, also, in money-raising campaigns for the College. They will not only tackle the tasks we are wont to call "man-sized jobs", but they will, also, clean them up in a perfectly womanly way. It is safe to say that, through their activities, they raise and disburse each year between five hundred, and one thousand dollars for the benefit of the church. The following have been presidents of the society at the times indicated:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 1907 | Mrs. J. G. Hall |
| 1909 | Mrs. Eugene Brown |
| 1916 | Mrs. J. B. Haught |
| 1917 | Mrs. D. O. B. Hall |
| 1919 | Mrs. D. O. B. Hall |
| 1922 | Mrs. H. C. Curry |
| 1923-1925 | Mrs. J. B. Haught |
| 1925-1927 | Mrs. G. B. Skidmore |
| 1927-1931 | Mrs. D. O. B. Hall |
| 1931-1940 | Mrs. W. T. McWhorter |

Information received by me since the material above was prepared, indicates that over a period of several years prior to the first of the administrations given, Mrs. E. J. Rider was the efficient president of the Society.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE

The Quarterly Conference minutes for the session of December 17, 1891 show the confirmation of the officers of the Epworth League. Since the minutes contain no previous reference to the League, it is inferred that the organization of this young people's society of the church had been effected after the last preceding regular quarterly conference of September 17, 1891 and before the date noted above.

The following were the officers confirmed:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| F. H. Crago | President |
| Dora J. Dadmun | First Vice President |
| J. Frank Latham | Second Vice President |
| Annie Poundstone | Third Vice President |
| G. U. Balsley | Fourth Vice President |
| G. W. Fish | Secretary |
| G. H. Balsley | Treasurer |

The president was one of West Virginia's well-known educators of that time. It seems that, owing to an educational tempest in his home town, Buckhannon had the good fortune to secure his services for a short time, and the pastor, the Rev. C. E. Clark, took advantage of the circumstance to enlist him in the work of the Epworth League.

The first vice president was, at that time, the teacher of Greek and English in the Seminary, the institution from which Wesleyan College developed some years later.

All the other officers were young people then, well-known still in Buckhannon, except, perhaps, the Messrs. Balsley who left Buckhannon a few years later, Gratton U. as a member of the West Virginia Conference, and George H. to reside in California.

Other League presidents confirmed by the quarterly conferences before the long break in the record from 1896 to 1920 were:

1892—W. S. O'Brien

1894—G. U. Balsley

1895—C. J. C. Bennett

Still others whose names with dates have been obtained from various sources were:

1900—G. B. Loudin

1909—T. R. Hall

1916—F. M. Farnsworth

1917—F. M. Farnsworth

1919—Lynn Rohrbough

1921—Pearle Ressegger

1922—Wilda Ward

1923—Wetmore Haught

1924—Ross Bonar

1925—Ross Bonar

1930—David White

1931—Ruth Hamrick

1932—Charles White

1933—George Goodwin

1934—John Arnold

1935—Mary Lee Aylesworth

1936—George Goodwin

1937—Catherine Reger

1938—Harriet Jane Wells

1939—Marguerite Hymes & Rex Naylor

1940—Harriet Jane Wells

The Epworth League has been a fine training school for young people in church activities. Their participation in the programs has been intellectually and spiritually stimulating. They have acquired personal poise increasing their efficiency, both as members of the church and as citizens of the community. The atmosphere of the League has fostered the formation of wholesome aims and ideals.

In taking leave of the League we say "good bye" to the name only. For under the more comprehensive plan of the united churches, Youth Fellowship societies strive toward the same goals as before, but by methods, and under conditions more in keeping with the present time.

THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

There is some indirect evidence that the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was not organized before the year 1900. The record is fairly complete from that date to the present time.

Prior to the year 1896 — the beginning of a twenty-four year hiatus in the record of the quarterly conferences of the church, references are found in the record to the missionary effort of the church through the Sunday School only. The implication is that it was the chief, and, perhaps, the only organized agency of the church for the promotion of missionary work.

While the quarterly conference records are lacking for the period from 1896 to the beginning of the recorded history of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in the year 1900, yet it is likely that some direct or indirect reference to the earlier work of the society would have been found if it had an earlier beginning.

The officers chosen at the election held in the society November 14, 1900 were as follows:

President, Mrs. John Wier
 Vice President, Mrs. S. D. Morgan
 Recording Secretary, Miss Maude Rusmisell
 Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. L. H. Lindsay
 Treasurer, Mrs. Fred L. Williams

The following are the names of the presidents of the society prior to the union of the Foreign, the Home, and the Isabella Thoburn Societies about the year 1935:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1900—1901 | Mrs. John Wier |
| 1901—1902 | " F. S. Townsend |
| 1902—1904 | " S. P. Crummitt |
| 1904—1907 | " John Wier |
| 1907—1916 | " H. D. Clark |
| 1916—1918 | " H. C. Howard |
| 1918—1919 | " Eugene Brown |
| 1919—1921 | " G. D. Smith |
| 1921—1923 | " Eugene Brown |
| 1923—1927 | " W. T. McWhorter |
| 1927—1930 | " H. E. Wark |

1930—1932 " R. C. Brown
 1932—1934 " Rachel Ogden
 1934—1935 " R. C. Brown

In a material way the society has contributed to missionary hospitals, schools, current work in missionary lands, and has maintained two missionary scholarships. In the spiritual realm, the zeal of the society has fostered and promoted local interest quite beyond the circle of its own membership in spreading the principles of Christianity abroad to all mankind.

THE WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The earliest records of the Woman's Home Missionary Society bear the date, October 21, 1908. It, evidently, was organized earlier, for the minutes of that date refer to the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, also to the treasurer's report showing \$73.23 raised by the society during the preceding year. But where, O where has the record book gone?

Funds gathered by this society were distributed to needy enterprises under the auspices of the church, such as rest homes, hospitals, schools for the under-privileged. Support was given, also, to missionary work in our own conference. This support often took the form of food or clothing sent to the missionary minister's family.

This society as a separate agency continued active till the year 1935 or 1936, when it and the Isabella Thoburn Society and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society united to form the Woman's Missionary Society.

Following is a list of the names of those who served as presidents of the Home Society, together with the years during which they severally served.

1908—1913 Mrs. C. G. Doney
 1913—1914 " Don Nichols
 1914—1915 " C. G. Doney
 1915—1916 " A. K. Miller
 1916—1917 " A. K. Miller, probably, but record lacking
 1917—1918 " T. W. Haught
 1918—1921 " J. B. Workman
 1921—1922 " E. M. Rohrbough
 1922—1932 " L. H. Chrisman
 1932—1935 " H. Roy Waugh

THE ISABELLA THOBURN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

This society was organized in the year 1920 by Mrs. G. D. Smith, the wife of the pastor at that time. It was an auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and directed its efforts toward the same objectives. The original basis for the separate organization was to enlist in the missionary cause the interests of a group of women whose occupations or other duties prevented them from meeting with the society already organized. To this end they met in

the evening instead of the afternoon. The average membership of this society was about thirty five.

In time this society developed a wholesome group individuality favorable to missionary activities. They contributed to the general work of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, supported four Korean educational scholarships, and sponsored the King's Heralds, a foreign missionary society of girls, providing them with literature and a leader for their study. They also sponsored the student missionary study and activity in Wesleyan College through the student secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

Mrs. T. W. Haught was president of the society from the time of its organization in 1920 till 1935 or 1936 when, as noted in the article on the Home Society, the three groups united under the name of "The Woman's Missionary Society".

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The functions of the three missionary societies heretofore named were assumed by the united society named first above. The union occurred in the year 1935 or 1936 and continued under this title till the year 1940, when, with the unification of the three Methodist denominations, all the organized activities of the women of the church were comprehended under the name or the supervision of "The Woman's Society of Christian Service".

Both of these societies, while young in years, were made up, in great part, of a membership seasoned by experience in similar church societies here or elsewhere. They are new only in name. As a result they have operated efficiently from the start. When we note that this aspect of the church work is in such capable hands, it should be one of the least of our worries.

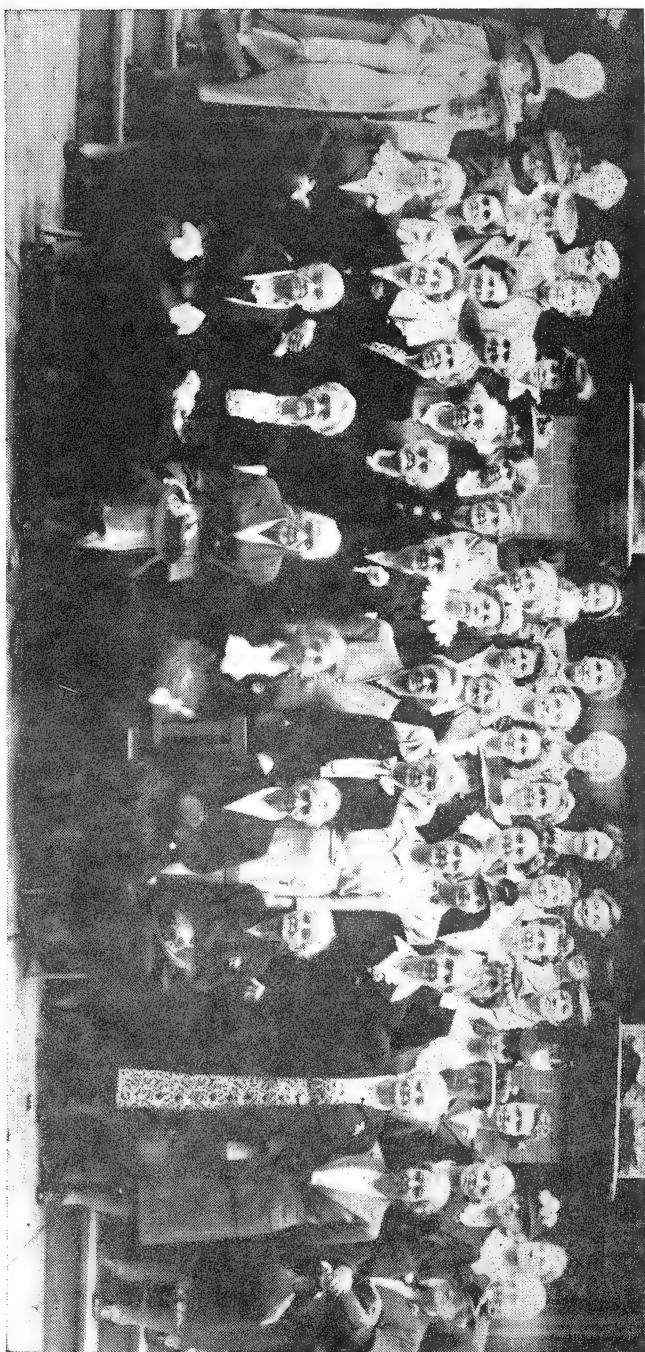
The presiding officers of the two societies have been in turn as follows:

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1935—1936 Mrs. H. Roy Waugh
1936—1938 " Roberta Roberts
1938—1940 " W. B. Fleming

THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1941—1942 Mrs. W. B. Fleming
1943—1944 " T. W. Haught
1945— " R. C. Brown



THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE — 1945

NAMES OF PERSONS REPRESENTED IN THE PICTURE OF THE W. S. C. S.

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Anderson, Mrs. Newton | Hall, Mrs. Robert | Ridenour, Mrs. Lillie |
| Boette, Miss Marie | Haught, Mrs. T. W. | Ross, Mrs. Guy |
| Boggess, Miss Annie | Hoylman, Mrs. Carl | Ruble, Mrs. H. W. |
| Bond, Miss May | Hupp, Mrs. Elmer | Simons, Mrs. C. L. |
| Bonner, Miss Nellie | Hyre, Mrs. Lycurgus | Skidmore, Mrs. G. B. |
| Brake, Mrs. Rhoda | Jett, Mrs. W. W. | Snider, Mrs. C. A. |
| Brown, Mrs. Ralph C. | Jones, Mrs. Fay | Stalnaker, Mrs. H. P. |
| Carpenter, Mrs. Simon | Karickhoff, Mrs. D. W. | Stockert, Mrs. John |
| Carper, Mrs. Frank | Karickhoff, Mrs. P. C. | Stump, Mrs. Hill |
| Casto, Mrs. W. P. | Kelso, Mrs. Hugh E. | Thacker, Mrs. E. W. |
| Clark, Mrs. H. D. | Leonard, Mrs. Frank | Underwood, Miss Ruth |
| Curry, Mrs. Frances | Linger, Mrs. Ross | Wethered, Mrs. Hunter |
| Curry, Mrs. Ora | Long, Mrs. Okey | Weaver, Mrs. Jennie |
| Dutton, Mrs. Glenn R. | Martin, Mrs. J. E. | Weaver, Mrs. T. F. |
| Fidler, Mrs. Hugh | McLaughlin, Mrs. C. W. | Weaver, Mrs. S. C. |
| Fish, Mrs. G. W. | Mick, Mrs. G. W. | White, Mrs. W. E. |
| Fleming, Mrs. W. B. | Overstreet, Mrs. W. S. | Williams, Mrs. F. L. |
| Fleming, Mrs. W. H. | Phillips, Mrs. S. O. | Wilson, Miss Nellie |
| Grose, Mrs. L. S. | Poundstone, Mrs. Paul | Wolfe, Mrs. A. S. |
| Gussler, Mrs. Margaret | Queen, Mrs. Carl L. | Woofter, Mrs. Rose |
| Hall, Mrs. D. O. B. | Reger, Mrs. E. R. | Young, Mrs. Hugh |

COMMITTEES FOR 1944-45

The following committees have been elected by the Fourth Quarterly Conference to serve during the Conference Year 1944-1945.

Membership: Mrs. Eleanor R. Williams, E. H. Kelly, W. C. Cade, Miss Beth Darnall, Mrs. Brenda Reger.

Finance: Myron B. Hymes, A. G. Shannon, Ross Bonar, W. P. Casto, T. W. Haught, Wm. T. O'Brien, H. Roy Waugh.

Pastoral Relations: T. W. Haught, Mrs. Roberta Reger Roberts, W. C. Carper, Newton S. Anderson, David Reemsnyder.

Nominations: Pastor, President W. S. C. S., Lay Leader, President Board of Trustees, Sunday School Superintendent.

Audit: W. B. Hicks, Robert Hall, W. T. Taylor, Heyward Williams.

Records: John Anthony, Edith Hall.

Hospitals and Homes: Mrs. Fred Rusmisell, Mrs. Ed Reger, W. C. Cade.

Church Board of Education: J. L. Hupp, S. W. Carpenter, Mrs. Mary Alice Thurman, Mrs. H. D. Potter, Miss Nellie Wilson, T. W. Haught, R. C. Brown, Nancy Goodwin, Dorothy Dutton.

Church Board of Missions and Church Extension: J. L. Hupp, S. W. Carpenter, Mrs. Mary Alice Thurman, Mrs. H. D. Potter, Mrs. L. H. Chrisman, Mrs. W. T. Taylor, Miss Nellie Wilson, L. H. Chrisman, W. B. Fleming, Nancy Goodwin, Dorothy Dutton.

Evangelism: Mrs. W. B. Fleming, Mrs. Carl R. Beer, Mrs. W. R. Fish.

Temperance: Mrs. W. E. White, Mrs. Ed Werely, John C. Shaw, Mrs. Mary Folk, R. L. Brooks.

Parsonage: W. S. C. S.

Property: John C. Shaw, W. T. Taylor, Mrs. T. W. Haught.

Policy: Pastor, A. G. Shannon, Mrs. T. W. Haught, Ross Bonar, J. L. Hupp, Mrs. H. D. Potter, President Youth Fellowship, M. B. Hymes, John C. Shaw, R. S. Rundio, Miss Nellie Wilson.

Ushers: E. H. Kelly, Henry Gottfried.

Collectors: Earl Young, W. T. Taylor.

Treasurer Current Expenses: Wm. T. O'Brien.

Treasurer Benevolences: Newton S. Anderson.

Financial Secretary: Mrs. W. T. Taylor.

Director Religious Education (part time) Miss Nellie Wilson.

CHURCH DIRECTORY 1944-45

James H. Straughn D. D., LL. D., Resident Bishop

Hugh E. Kelso, D. D., District Superintendent

Miss Nellie Wilson, Director Christian Education

Dr. W. B. Fleming, Dr. L. S. Grose, Rev. C. A. Snider, Rev. A.

S. Wolfe, Retired

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. G. Shannon, Chairman; Myron B. Hymes, Secretary,

T. W. Haught, B. F. Whitescarver, W. C. Carper

Lay Leader Ross Bonar

Lay Member Annual Conference John C. Shaw

STEWARDS

Newton S. Anderson, Carl R. Beer, Ross Bonar, Mrs. R. C. Brown, W. C. Cade, Dr. W. C. Carper, W. P. Casto, James H. Coleman, Jr., H. E. Dawson, Glenn R. Dutton, Hugh Fidler, G. W. Fish, W. R. Fish, T. C. Fisher, Mrs. W. B. Fleming, Henry Gottfried, Allen T. Hamner, T. W. Haught, Dr. I. F. Hartman, Jerrold E. Haddix, W. B. Hicks, Mrs. J. E. Judson, Mrs. Fay Jones, E. H. Kelly, J. F. Latham, W. T. O'Brien, E. R. Reger, Mrs. Brenda Reger, Robert H. Reger, David Reemsnyder, Mrs. Roberta Roberts, Perce J. Ross, Robert Rundio, John C. Shaw, Mrs. G. B. Skidmore, H. P. Stalnaker, W. T. Taylor, H. Roy Waugh, B. F. Whitescarver, Mrs. F. L. Williams, Earl W. Young, U. G. Young, Jr.

ORGANIZATIONS

Church School Superintendent J. L. Hupp

Woman's Society of Christian Service Mrs. R. C. Brown

Treasurer Current Expense Wm. T. O'Brien

Treasurer Benevolences Newton S. Anderson

Financial Secretary Mrs. W. T. Taylor



THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
For the names see the official Church Directory

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Recording Steward | Thomas R. Hall |
| Communion Steward | Mrs. Fay Jones |
| Director of Music | Mrs. W. C. Manser |
| Organist | Mrs. Allen T. Hamner |
| Young Woman's Society Christian Service | Mrs. Carl Wilfong |
| Rose Mace Missionary Society | Dorothy Dutton |
| Methodist Youth Fellowship: | |
| Young People | Jo Whitaker |
| Senior | Dorothy Dutton |
| Intermediate | Bonnie Bowyer |

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 1944-45

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Membership | Mrs. F. L. Williams |
| Finance | Myron B. Hymes |
| Pastoral Relations | T. W. Haught |
| Nominations | Ross Linger |
| Audit | W. B. Hicks |
| Records | John Anthony |
| Hospitals and Homes | Mrs. Fred H. Rusmisell |
| Evangelism | Mrs. W. B. Fleming |
| Temperance | Mrs. W. E. White |
| Property | John C. Shaw |
| Scout Master | Robert Johnson |
| Ushers | E. H. Kelly, Henry Gottfried |
| Collectors | Earl Young, W. T. Taylor |

MONTHLY MEETINGS

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Official Board, First Monday in month at 7:30 p.m. | |
| Board of Education, and Missions, Second Tuesday in month 7:30 p.m | |
| Church School Worker's~Conference With Board of Education and Missions, Second Tuesday in January, April, July and October 7:30 p.m. | |
| Woman's Society of Christian Service, First Thursday 2:30 p.m. | |
| Young Woman's Society of Christian Service, First Thursday 7:30 p.m. | |
| Rose Mace Missionary Society, Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. | |
| Senior Choir, Friday evening 7:15 | |
| Junior Choir, Thursday afternoon 4:00 o'clock. | |
| Sexton | Fay Jones, phone 165 |
| Parsonage Phone | 167 |

CHURCH EXTENSION SERVICE

In the years, especially since the beginning of Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, efforts have been made from time to time to extend locally the spiritual values of First Church beyond the area providing most of its membership.

In the middle nineties, George R. Archer, a ministerial student, organized a society in North Buckhannon. It is the writer's impres-

sion that this society built there a small church. The spiritual uplift of Archer's work in that community is, no doubt, a wholesome influence yet today.

Though the spiritual interests of that community today are affiliated with another denomination, we take no less pride in the fact that the missionary spirit of Methodism had something to do with its beginning.

Mr. Archer, long a member of a conference in Idaho, is still going strong at seventy eight. He took time out in 1942 and 1943 to acquire a competence for his old age, and is again back in the work, though on a retired status. His name appears as a member of the Quarterly Conference of Buckhannon First Church in the nineties.

A similar interest dating from about the same time has been taken in the spiritual life of South Buckhannon. Settlement in the area was rather slow at first, after its opening in 1890 and 1891. Modest houses arose here and there, the nearest in many instances being blocks apart for a while. But as the population grew in numbers community interests developed, and among these the spiritual welfare of the people. Among those promoting this work have been ministerial students, local preachers, and retired members of the Annual Conference.

The most recent effort in this field gives fair promise of being the most permanent. In the year 1932 R. L. Brooks, a local preacher of our congregation, W. G. Smith, a retired member of our Annual Conference, and David A. Crites, a Baptist minister, took an interest in forming a society there with headquarters not far from the Marion Street bridge.

An unoccupied store room was equipped and used for a while as a meeting place. A little later the society had an opportunity to purchase, for a modest consideration, a concrete-block power house no longer in use. Bringing the material of this house into town, they erected with it a church on Randolph Street a little south of Marion.

This new church was dedicated December 9, 1934. It is interdenominational. On this phase of its character one cherishes the hope that it is a good omen when church people of different creeds can unite in Christian fellowship, to accomplish in a community what those of no one creed alone could do.

The stars on the service flag of this church show that about sixty five of their young people have answered the call to serve our country in the present war. The pastor is the Rev. Forrest Snyder.

It is a matter of recent memory with many of us that Dr. S. W. Bell in the time of his pastorate of First Church was, no doubt, the leading spirit in the organization of a society beyond the city limits near the Weston road. The members of this society have now erected a handsome little church for themselves, calling it the West Buckhannon Methodist Church.

The writer journeyed to the place to gain a little inspiration to

write about it. The door opens into an anteroom, where stands a parlor style of organ. This was, probably, stored to make room for the upright piano found on the inside of the church. It is a cozy little room designed to accommodate a small society, and no doubt a Sunday School. Their chief, if not their only, mural decoration is the kindly face of Doctor Bell. A spirit of gratitude is of the same texture as the Spirit of Christ. The Rev. A. S. Wolfe, West Virginia Annual Conference, retired, has present charge of this work.

HONOR ROLL

OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Arnett, Frank
 Bailey, Charles
 Bird, Virgil
 Bolton, John
 Brown, Cecil
 Bump, George
 Carpenter, Simon
 Casto, Ray L.
 Chapman, Ray
 Dowler, James
 Fleming, Paul
 Forman, Paul
 Fowkes, Walter
 Gibson, Hugh B.
 Grose, Herman
 Hall, Jesse
 Hall, Ralph
 Hall, Walter
 Hathaway, Walden
 Hymes, Myron
 Jones, Ralph
 Lawson, Robert
 Looney, Harry
 Martin, Robert
 McWhorter, Bruce

McWhorter, Egbert
 Meredith, John
 O'Brien, Emmett
 Phillips, Walter
 Post, Isaac H.
 Post, John
 Reeder, Paul
 Reger, Frank
 Rohrbough, Jay
 Rohrbough, Lynn
 Root, Charles
 Ross, Kelcel
 Rusmisell, J. A.
 Shroyer, David K.
 Shumaker, Osbert
 Shumaker, Worth
 Sleigh, Riler J.
 Smith, Warren L.
 Steele, Leonard
 Stewart, Watt
 Tamblyn, Wesley
 Weaver, Perry J.
 Weaver, Williard
 Withers, John
 Workman, M. A.
 Workman, Paul

HONOR ROLL OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Arnold, Frederick M.
 Bailey, Bernard
 Bailey, Robert B.
 Barlow, Elizabeth
 Barlow, Wilson P. Jr.
 Bedell, Douglass
 Bedell, William
 Beeson, Ira J.
 Bennett, Thomas
 Bos, John F.
 Bos, Robert
 Bowyer, A. B.
 Brooks, Rola L.
 Brown, David R.
 Brown, Ellen Lou
 Brown, Ralph C. Jr.
 Broyles, Joseph W. Jr.
 Byrne, Richard
 Campbell, Raymond C.
 Canfield, Leroy
 Carper, William C. Jr.
 Cartwright, David M.
 Coleman, Charles Jr.
 Crider, Claude
 Cunningham, Paul
 Cutlip, Scott
 DeTurk, William
 Eakin, Doran W.
 Ellis, Franklin C.
 Ellis, James L.
 Fallon, Harry
 Fisher, Saul
 Fitzwater, John T.
 Frame, Marshall W.
 Gay, Henry R. Jr.
 Goodwin, Olin M.
 Green, Allen
 Greene, Marvin L.
 Hallam, W. A.
 Hamner, Allen T. Jr.
 Hartman, I. Frank
 Harvey, James L.
 Hicks, Mason S.
 Hicks, William B. Jr.
 Hiner, Arthur H.
 Hinzman, John W.
 Holt, Robert
 Hornbeck, Duffy C. Jr.
 Huffman, J. C.
 Hupp, Robert
 Hymes, Myron B. Jr.

Karickhoff, Elliott M.
 Karickhoff, Kermit A.
 Kenney, Harold Thurston
 Kerans, James Howard
 Lang, Coy A.
 Lawson, Richard
 Linger, Elbert Leon
 Linger, William
 Marshall, Chester A. Jr.
 Martin, Carl
 Martin, David
 Martin, Donald
 Manser, W. C. Jr.
 Maysilles, James
 Miles, Quentin
 Naylor, Rex
 Phillips, Kenneth
 Phillips, Russell R.
 Phillips, William
 Pifer, Gohen Arnold
 Post, Lawrence
 Potter, Harold D.
 Price, Herbert H.
 Reger, Carl Robert
 Reger, Robert H.
 Rexroad, Howard
 Roberts, Robert A.
 Ross, C. B.
 Rusmisell, J. A. Jr.
 Scott, David F.
 Shaffer, Charles R.
 Shumaker, Layne Allen
 Simons, Esthel
 Skidmore, Wilbur M.
 Stalnaker, Herbert P.
 Stanley, Kenneth
 Stewart, John H.
 Strader, Robert G.
 Stump, Forrest
 Thorpe, Genevieve
 Travis, Ralph E.
 Trippett, Karl H.
 Tyree, Jack M.
 Underwood, William
 Waggy, Robert W.
 Waggy, William
 Waugh, John H.
 Wereley, Janson W.
 West, Sherman
 White, Ison T. Jr.
 Williams, John Brunson

Wolfe, Harry Samuel
Young, Richard Lee

Young, Stillman Ralph
Young, U. G.

FOR NAMES OF OTHERS ENTERING SERVICE:

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MEMBERSHIP ROLL

The author acknowledges his indebtedness to Mrs. Fred L. Williams of the Membership Committee for the major part of the work done in preparing the following list representing the present membership of the church.

The names of a few members long out of contact with the church have been omitted here, but have been retained on the permanent church record.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Abbott, Harold D. | Baxa, Pauline |
| Abbott, Mrs. Harold D. | Baxa, Mrs. Olive |
| Ackles, B. W. | Beall, Mrs. Ben L. |
| Anderson, Alton J. | Bedell, Mrs. Ada |
| Anderson, Mrs. Alton J. | Bedell, Douglas Carlton |
| Anderson, Barbara | Bedell, Wm. Irving |
| Anderson, Newton S. | Beer, Carl |
| Anderson, Mrs. Newton S. | Beer, Mrs. Carl |
| Anderson, Richard N. | Beer, Carl Neil |
| Anthony, John | Beer, Vonda Rae |
| Anthony, Mrs. John | Beer, Wanda Lou |
| Anthony, Wm. Kenneth | Beeson, Jewell |
| Anthony, Morice Gene | Bender, B. A. |
| Arnold, O. D. | Bender, Mrs. B. A. |
| Arnold, Mrs. O. D. | Bennett, Mrs. Lenora |
| Arnold, Mark Frederic | Bennett, Thomas |
| Arnold, Grace | Bennett, O. O. |
| Arnett, Minnie | Bennett, Mrs. O. O. |
| Arnett, Marthella | Bennett, Wayman |
| Ashworth, G. E. | Berthy, Mrs. Freda Mae Beall |
| Ashworth, Mabel | Biarre, Gertrude Ridenour |
| Aylesworth, A. L. | Billingsley, Harry D. |
| Aylesworth, Mrs. A. L. | Billingsley, Mrs. Harry D. |
| Bail, Vernon B. | Billingsley, Elizabeth Susan |
| Bail, Mrs. Vernon B. | Black, Mrs. Lorna Linger |
| Bail, Julia Ann | Blakeslee, Mrs. C. A. |
| Bail, John William | Blakeslee, Jean |
| Bailey, William | Boggess, Anna |
| Bailey, Morgan | Bonar, Ross |
| Bailey, Mrs. Morgan | Bonar, Mrs. Ross |
| Bailey, Bernard | Bond, May |
| Bailey, Helen | Bonner, Nellie |
| Bailey, Joseph | Bos, Mrs. Jacob |
| Bailey, Robert | Bos, J. Freeman |
| Bailey, Lucile | Bos, Jacob Jr. |
| Ballah, Mrs. Elizabeth DeTurk | Bos, Robert |
| Barlow, Mrs. Wilson P. | Bowyer, Mrs. A. B. |
| Barlow, Elizabeth | Bowyer, Bonnie |
| Barlow, Wilson P. Jr. | Bowyer, Eloise Mordel |
| Bartlett, Loy | Boylen, Mary |
| Bartlett, Mrs. Loy | Brake, John Aldice |
| Bauer, Eva | Blake, Mrs. John Aldice |
| Baxa, Charles O. | Brake, A. K. |
| Baxa, Mrs. Charles O. | Brake, Mrs. A. K. |
| Baxa, Clifford | Brake, Mrs. Rhoda |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Brake, Zenna | Casto, Mrs. Willis P. |
| Broadwater, Mrs. Gertrude Hinkle | Casto, Mrs. Betty Shumaker |
| Blocher, Mrs. Kathleen Williams | Chambers, Ann Selbe |
| Brocks, Morgan M. | Chapman, Mrs. H. S. |
| Brooks, Mrs. Morgan M. | Chapman, Charlotte |
| Brooks, R. L. | Chapman, Marjorie |
| Brooks, Mrs. R. L. | Chandler, Mrs. Cosby Sayre |
| Brooks, Morgan L. | Chidester, Mrs. Emma Gould |
| Brooks, Rolla L. | Chidester, Nellie |
| Brothers, Rayma Gene | Chidester, John Carl |
| Brown, Mrs. Della | Chidester, Mrs. John Carl |
| Brown, G. O. | Chidester, Helen Marie |
| Brown, Mrs. G. B. | Chidester, Mrs. Clotille H. |
| Brown, Mrs. Ralph C. | Chrisman, Lewis H. |
| Brown, Ellen Lou | Chrisman, Mrs. L. H. |
| Brown, Mary Dorcas | Clark, Mrs. Hyre D. |
| Brown, David R. | Clôvis, George C. |
| Brown, Ralph C. Jr. | Clovie, Mrs. George C. |
| Brown, Mrs. Ralph C. Jr. | Clawson, Thomas |
| Broyles, Mrs. Joseph W. | Clawson, Mrs. Thomas |
| Broyles, Joseph W. Jr. | Click, Mrs. Mary Cade |
| Broyles, John Allen | Cockerill, Mrs. George |
| Broyles, Mrs. S. H. | Cockerill, Mrs. John |
| Burnett, C. C. | Cockerill, Mary Lou |
| Burnett, Mrs. C. C. | Cockerill, Betty |
| Burton, Mrs. Virginia White | Cokeley, Addie |
| Bunten, Mrs. T. W. | Coleman, Charles E. |
| Bunten, Elizabeth Ann | Coleman, James H. Jr. |
| Byrne, C. Raymond | Coleman, Mrs. James H. Jr. |
| Byrne, Mrs. C. Raymond | Colerider, Mrs. Betty Lou Garton |
| Byrne, Mrs. Alice Blakeslee | Colerider, Clark |
| Cade, Clark W. | Colerider, Mrs. Clark |
| Cade, Mrs. Clark W. | Corder, Kathryn |
| Cade, Dorothy | Congleton, Mrs. Eva |
| Campbell, Raymond C. | Crane, Orvin |
| Campbell, Mrs. Raymond C. | Crabb, Dorothy J. Griffiths |
| Campbell, James | Crane, Donald |
| Campbell, Raymond Jackson | Crane, Albert |
| Canfield, Yale | Cressler, Ben C. |
| Canfield, Mrs. Yale | Crider, Claude |
| Canfield, Leroy | Crislip, Don |
| Carpenter, Mrs. Edgar P. | Crites, Freal |
| Carpenter, S. W. | Crites, Mrs. Freal |
| Carpenter, Mrs. S. W. | Crites, Mrs. Madge |
| Carpenter, Thelma | Crites, Jimmy |
| Carpenter, William | Crites, Mary Louise |
| Carper, Alvin B. | Crites, Patty Jo |
| Carper, W. C. 2nd. | Cunningham, Paul |
| Carper, W. C. 3rd. | Cunningham, Mrs. Paul |
| Carper, Mrs. Lona L. | Cummings, Mrs. Lucile Munson |
| Carson, Mrs. Martha Brooks | Curry, Lela |
| Cartwright, Edwin | Curry, John D. |
| Cartwright, Mrs. Edwin | Curry, Mrs. John D. |
| Cartwright, David M. | Curry, Lois Grace |
| Cartwright, Mrs. David M. | Curry, William Ross |
| Casto, Willis P. | Curry, Mrs. Ora Douglas |

Cutlip, Scott M.
 Cutlip, Robert
 Cutright, Allene
 Cutright, Allan B.
 Cutright, Mrs. Allen B.
 Cutright, Allana
 Cutright, Allen B. Jr.
 Cutright, Mrs. Lorna
 Cutright, Victor
 Cutright, Chester, P.
 Cutright, Mrs. Chester P.
 Cutright, Mary Sue
 Cutright, Mrs. Sarah
 Darnall, Mrs. H. A.
 Darden, Norma C. Cockerill
 Darnall, Beth
 Darnall, T. A.
 Darnall, Mrs. T. A.
 Darnall, Myrtle
 Darnall, Thomas
 Dawn, W. C.
 Dawn, Mrs. W. C.
 Dawson, Homer E.
 Dawson, Homer Patrick
 Dawson, Lynn
 Dawson, Alice
 Dawson, Joan
 Dean, Margaret
 Dean, Anna Marie
 Deeds, Margaret
 DeTurk, Marshall
 DeTurk, Mrs. Marshall
 DeTurk, Mary E.
 DeTurk, Wm. Edward
 DeLong, Mrs. Lincoln
 Dias, Mrs. Helen Eakin
 Dix, Betty
 Drummond, G. E.
 Drummond, Willis
 Dutton, Glenn R.
 Dutton, Mrs. Glenn R.
 Dutton, Dorothy Mae
 Eakin, P. E.
 Eakin, Mrs. P. E.
 Eakin, Ward
 Ernest, Mrs. Dessie
 Ernest, Cora
 Ernest, James
 Ellis, Mrs. Lake
 Ellis, Frank C.
 Ellis, James L. Jr.
 Fallon, Harry
 Farnsworth, F. M.
 Farnsworth, Daniel
 Farnsworth, Neil B.
 Farnsworth, Pauline

Farnsworth, Mrs. T. O.
 Felts, Mrs. Virginia Post
 Felts, Raymond W.
 Felts, Stuart P.
 Fenton, Charles
 Fenton, Mrs. Charles
 Fidler, Hugh
 Fidler, Mrs. Hugh
 Fish, G. Walter
 Fish, Mrs. G. Walter
 Fish, W. Raymond
 Fish, Mrs. W. Raymond
 Fish, Barbara Lee
 Fisher, Thomas
 Fisher, Mrs. Thomas
 Fisher, Helen
 Fisher, Saul C.
 Fisher, Mrs. C. C.
 Fitzwater, Carl F.
 Fitzwater, Mrs. Carl F.
 Fitzwater, John
 Fitzwater, Mrs. Mary Eakin
 Fleming, Mrs. Wallace B.
 Fleming, Mrs. Nell Crowley
 Fleming, William
 Folks, Mrs. Mary E.
 Fordyce, Mrs. Laura
 Fordyce, Juanita
 Fordyce, Wentz
 Forman, Mrs. Paul B.
 Forman, Worth B.
 Forman, Mrs. Worth B.
 Forman, Mary
 Fowkes, Mrs. Tessie
 Fowkes, Lucy Jane
 Fowkes, Mrs. Walter A.
 Fowler, Mrs. Mildred Harper
 Frame, Newton B.
 Frame, Mrs. Newton B.
 Frame, Marshall
 Frings, Hubert
 Frings, Mrs. Hubert
 Froggett, Mrs. Betty Ellen Smith
 Frum, Mrs. Martha
 Frum, Blanche
 Frum, Ona
 Faulkner, Mrs. Ethel M.
 Garton, Dorothy
 Gay, Henry R. Jr.
 Gibson, A. L.
 Gibson, Mrs. A. L.
 Gibson, Hugh
 Given, Jean Marie
 Gladwell, A. M.
 Gladwell, Mrs. A. M.
 Glauner, George L.

Glauner, John H.
 Glauner, Mrs. George L.
 Goodwin, Olin M.
 Goodwin, Mrs. Olin M.
 Goodwin, Claude E. Jr.
 Goodwin, David L.
 Goodwin, Nancy
 Gottfried, Henry
 Gottfried, Mrs. Henry
 Gould, Eva
 Gould, Ingie
 Gould, Mary
 Gould, Margaret
 Gould, Nym
 Gould, Mary Jane
 Grassier, Mrs. Isabelle Underwood
 Green, J. C.
 Green, Mrs. J. C.
 Green, Lawrence
 Green, Allen M.
 Green, Mrs. Allen M.
 Green, Allen M. Jr.
 Gregory, Okey W.
 Gregory, Mrs. Okey W.
 Gregory, Okey Jr.
 Griffiths, Mrs. E. K.
 Griffiths, Donald
 Griffiths, George E.
 Griffiths, Wilma
 Grose, Mrs. L. S.
 Grose, Lois M.
 Grose, Walter R.
 Gussler, Mrs. J. L.
 Haddix, Jerrold
 Haddix, Mrs. Jerrold
 Hall, Burton A.
 Hall, Mrs. D. O'B.
 Hall, Jerome V.
 Hall, Mrs. Jerome V.
 Hall, Ethel S.
 Hall, Edith
 Hall, Helen
 Hall, Winnie
 Hall, Mrs. Myrtle
 Hall, Robert S.
 Hall, Mrs. Robt. S.
 Hall, Thomas R.
 Hall, Mrs. Thomas R.
 Hall, Helen Linger
 Hallam, William A.
 Hallam, Mrs. Wm. A.
 Hamner, Allen T. Jr.
 Hamner, Mrs. Allen T. Jr.
 Hamner, Mrs. Bertha
 Hamner, Madeline
 Hamrick, Mrs. C. E.
 Hamrick, Clyde
 Hamrick, Mrs. Clyde
 Hamrick, Mrs. Randall
 Hannah, Mrs. Guy
 Hannah, Guy Jr.
 Hannah, Patricia A.
 Hardman, Mrs. Celia M.
 Hardman, Cecelia Aileen
 Hardman, Rosemary
 Harne, Frank E.
 Harne, Mrs. Frank E.
 Harper, Mrs. Eulah O.
 Harper, Dorothy
 Harper, Mary M.
 Harper, Ruth
 Harper, William
 Hart, James C.
 Hartman, Mrs. Alex C.
 Hartman, Ethel Mae
 Hartman, I. Frank
 Hartman, Mrs. I. Frank
 Hathaway, Grace
 Hathaway, Maude
 Hathaway, Winnie
 Haught, Thomas W.
 Haught, Mrs. Thos. W.
 Hawkins, Mrs. Lowell
 Hendershot, Otis P.
 Hendershot, Mrs. Otis P.
 Henry, Mrs. Thelma McNemar
 Herndon, Mrs. Mary Fitzwater
 Hicks, William B.
 Hicks, Charles E.
 Hicks, Mason S.
 Hicks, William B. Jr.
 Hilleary, Mrs. Ada Smith
 Hiner, Howard
 Hiner, Mrs. Howard
 Hinkle, Gyda
 Hinkle, Mrs. John
 Hinkle, W. O.
 Hinkle, Brenice
 Hinkle, Mrs. J. D.
 Hinzman, Hazel
 Hinzman, Laco R.
 Hinzman, Mrs. Laco R.
 Hinzman, John
 Hood, Virgil P.
 Hood, Mrs. Virgil P.
 Hood, Parker
 Hood, Mrs. Margaret Ann Mayo
 Hoffman, Mrs. Ruth W.
 Holt, Charles
 Holt, Mrs. Charles
 Holt, Robert
 Hoover, E. J.

Hoover, Mrs. E. J.
 Hornbeck, Duffy C. Jr.
 Hornbeck, Mrs. Duffy C. Jr.
 Howard, Grace
 Howard, Maxine
 Hoylman, Joseph
 Hoylman, Mrs. Joseph
 Hoylman, Carl F.
 Hoylman, Mrs. Carl F.
 Hoylman, Linda
 Huffman, Mrs. Vesta
 Huffman, Edna
 Huffman, J. C.
 Huffman, Mrs. J. C.
 Hughes, Mrs. Maude
 Hulson, Mrs. James
 Hunter, Mrs. Helen Howard
 Hupp, J. L.
 Hupp, Mrs. J. L.
 Hupp, Robert
 Hupp, Anna
 Hymes, Myron B.
 Hymes, Mrs. Myron B.
 Hymes, Marguerite
 Hymes, Myron B. Jr.
 Hymes, Charles
 Hymes, Carol Ann
 Hymes, Harry M.
 Hymes, Mrs. Harry M.
 Hymes, Shirley
 Hyre, Mrs. A. A.
 Hyre, Mrs. Ida B.
 Hyre, Virginia
 Hyre, Augusta
 Hyre, Lycurgus
 Hyre, Mrs. Lycurgus
 Hyre, Mrs. William
 Hyre, Mamie
 Hyre, Lorraine
 Jackson, Mabel
 Jackson, Harvey M.
 Jackson, Mrs. Harvey M.
 Jackson, Doris Marilin
 Jackson, Helen Ruth
 Jenkins, Mrs. Minnie
 Jennings, Wilbur F.
 Jones, Fay F.
 Jones, Mrs. Fay F.
 Jones, Ralph
 Jones, Mrs. Genevieve Hefner
 Jones, John Milton
 Johnson, Frank S.
 Johnson, Mrs. Frank S.
 Johnson, Ann Joan
 Johnson, Robert E.
 Johnson, Mrs. Robt. E.

Judson, J. E.
 Judson, Mrs. J. E.
 Judson, Mary Alice
 Judson, Helen Ilene
 Karickhoff, O. E.
 Karickhoff, Mrs. O. E.
 Karickhoff, Elizabeth
 Karickhoff, Michael
 Karickhoff, Percy C.
 Karickhoff, Mrs. Percy C.
 Karickhoff, Carl Willis
 Karickhoff, Paul Leroy
 Karickhoff, Mrs. D. W.
 Karickhoff, Arthur Kermit
 Karickhoff, Elliott M.
 Keim, Mrs. Eva
 Kiel, Mrs. Eva Swisher
 Kelley, Alice A.
 Kelley, Ed. H.
 Kelley, Mrs. Ed. H.
 Kelso, Mrs. Hugh E.
 Kerans, Mrs. J. H. Sr.
 Kerans, George Lee
 Kerans, J. H. Jr.
 Kiddy, William E.
 Lang, Okey
 Lang, Mrs. Okey
 Lang, Oral
 Lang, Ray
 Lang, Mattie
 Lang, Coy
 Latham, J. Frank
 Latham, Mrs. J. Frank
 Lawhorn, Mrs. Flora
 Lawson, George F.
 Lawson, Mrs. Geo. F.
 Lawson, Mrs. Madge Brake
 Lawson, Richard
 Lawson, Joseph A.
 Lawson, Mrs. Clara Jett Strader
 Layfield, Mrs. Robert
 Leach, Mrs. Susan Mayo
 Lee, Carl
 Leonard, Frank O.
 Leonard, Mrs. Frank O.
 Leonard, Daisy
 Lewis, E. W.
 Lewis, Mrs. E. W.
 Lewis, Francis
 Lewis, Lemoine
 Lewis, Mrs. Gladys Perry
 Liddon, Mrs. Edna Wilson
 Liggett, Vivian
 Linger, Mrs. Ross
 Linger, Elbert Leon
 Linger, Leoma E.
 Linger, Mrs. F. A.

Linger, William
 Lorentz, Mrs. Alma
 Lorentz, Leonard P.
 Lorentz, Anne L.
 Lorentz, Mrs. Edna
 Loudin, Edna
 Lough, Mrs. Della
 Malone, J. A.
 Malone, Mrs. J. A.
 Malone, Donald
 Manser, William C.
 Manser, Mrs. Wm. C.
 Manser, Wm. C. Jr.
 Marley, Mrs. Gertrude Young
 Marple, Ruth
 Marple, Henry
 Marshall, Chester A.
 Marshall, Mrs. Chester A.
 Marshall, Chester A. Jr.
 Marteny, Mrs. Lucile
 Martin, Clifton
 Martin, Mrs. Clifton
 Martin, David
 Martin, Harold
 Martin, Cora Jane
 Martin, Mrs. Della
 Martin, Harry
 Martin, Catherine
 Martin, Mrs. Mable Sayre
 Martin, Mrs. Frank
 Martin, Carl F.
 Martin, Mrs. George
 Martin, Kathleen
 Martin, Mrs. Greta
 Martin, Robert
 Martin, Mrs. Robert
 Martin, Theodore
 Martin, Mrs. Theodore
 Martin, Joyce
 Martin, Theodore Jr.
 Martin, William
 Martin, Woodson
 Martin, Mrs. Woodson
 Martin, Dorothy Lee
 Martin, Donald W.
 Mathers, Mrs. George E.
 Maxwell, Frank P.
 Maxwell, Mrs. Frank P.
 Mayo, Mrs. Charles B.
 Maysilles, Mrs. J. H.
 Maysilles, James
 McCoy, John
 McHenry, J. R.
 McHenry, Betty Lee
 McLaughlin, Mrs. Mamie
 McLaughlin, Nell V.

McLaughlin, Katherine
 McNemar, Mrs. Lucy
 Metheney, Grace
 McWhorter, W. T.
 McWhorter, Mrs. W. T.
 Mick, G. W.
 Mick, Mrs. G. W.
 Mick, Lois
 Mick, Patty Lou
 Mick, Mrs. Worth S.
 Mick, Guy Worth
 Miles, Quentin
 Miller, Mrs. Yvonne Rohrbough
 Moats, Edgar A.
 Moats, Mrs. Edgar A.
 Moats, Mary Kathryn
 Moats, Winifred V.
 Moffett, Mrs. Eloise Canfield
 Moore, Carl B.
 Moore, Mrs. Carl B.
 Moore, Mrs. Kenneth
 Morgan, Arnold Dodd
 Morgan, Mrs. Arnold Dodd
 Morgan, Mrs. H. Boyers
 Moss, Mrs. Mary Margaret Lough
 Munson, C. D.
 Munson, Mrs. C. D.
 Munson, Charles D. Jr.
 Murphy, Maxine
 Naylor, Rex
 Naylor, Merle
 Neil, Mrs. C. Edmund
 Nine, Catherin Ellen
 Nutter, Margaret Louise
 Nutter, W. B.
 Nutter, Mrs. W. B.
 O'Brien, William T.
 O'Brien, Mrs. William T.
 Ogden, Mrs. Rachel
 Overstreet, Mrs. W. S.
 Page, Basil L.
 Page, Mrs. Basil L.
 Page, Mrs. L. W.
 Paugh, Mrs. Tella
 Peterson, Brooks
 Phillips, Cecil
 Phillips, Juanita
 Phillips, Sidney E.
 Phillips, S. Orr
 Phillips, Mrs. S. Orr
 Phillips, William
 Phillips, Dotty Jean
 Phillips, Kenneth
 Phillips, Mrs. Kenneth
 Phillips, Russell
 Phillips, Mrs. Mary Alice Smith

Pifer, Mrs. J. L.
 Pifer, John
 Pifer, Gohen
 Poling, Ray F.
 Post, Clay
 Post, Columbus I.
 Post, Mrs. Columbus I.
 Post, John H.
 Post, Orne
 Post, Lawrence
 Post, Mrs. Nellie
 Post, Zaner
 Potter, H. D.
 Potter, Mrs. H. D.
 Potter, Harold Cole
 Potter, Mrs. Sidney
 Poundstone, Paul
 Poundstone, Mrs. Paul
 Price, Mrs. H. L.
 Price, Raymond
 Price, Herbert
 Price, Mrs. Herbert
 Proudfoot, Mrs. Greta Teets
 Queen, Mrs. Benton
 Ramsey, Otis E.
 Ramsey, Mrs. Otis E.
 Ramsey, Carl
 Ramsey, Marie
 Ramsey, Velmor
 Rankin, Mrs. Mable
 Reed, Mrs. A. J.
 Reed, John D.
 Reed, Joyce
 Reed, Lois
 Reeder, Russell F.
 Reeder, Mrs. Russell F.
 Reeder, Ruth Loreen
 Reeder, E. O.
 Reeder, Mrs. E. O.
 Reemsnyder, David
 Reemsnyder, Mrs. David
 Reger, Ed. J.
 Reger, Mrs. E. J.
 Reger, Anna
 Reger, Elva Robert
 Reger, Mrs. Elva Robt.
 Reger, Robert H.
 Reger, Mrs. Robt. H.
 Reger, Mrs. Goldie
 Reger, Tressa
 Reger, Floyd
 Reger, Mrs. Kent
 Reitz, Mrs. L. P.
 Reppert, Howard
 Reppert, Mildred
 Reppert, Mrs. Anna Lee Garton

Rexroad, Charles
 Rexroad, Mary
 Rexroad, Mrs. Jane
 Rexroad, Robert W.
 Rexroad, Mrs. Robt. W.
 Rexroad, Ellen Jane
 Rexroad, William H.
 Ridenour, Mrs. Lillie S.
 Roberts, Mrs. Roberta Reger
 Roberts, Roberta
 Roberts, Robert A.
 Rogers, J. D.
 Rogers, Mrs. J. D.
 Rohrbough, Elsie
 Rohrbough, Fred L.
 Rohrbough, Earl
 Ross, Cecil B.
 Ross, Mrs. Cecil B.
 Ross, Alice Louise
 Ross, Guy
 Ross, Mrs. Guy
 Ross, Mrs. Sam
 Ross, Kelcel L.
 Ross, Perce
 Ross, Mrs. Perce
 Ruble, Mrs. Harriett
 Rundio, Robert S.
 Rundio, Mrs. Robt. S.
 Rusmisell, Carrie
 Rusmisell, Fred H.
 Rusmisell, Mrs. Fred H.
 Rusmisell, Mary Lee
 Rusmisell, Fred H. Jr.
 Rusmisell, James A.
 Rusmisell, Mrs. Jas. A.
 Rusmisell, James A. Jr.
 Russell, Mrs. Meta Young
 Russell, A. P.
 Sampson, Homer G.
 Sampson, Mrs. Homer G.
 Sanders, John W.
 Sanders, Mrs. John W.
 Sanders, Bettie
 Sanders, Jimmie
 Sanders, Nancy J.
 Sayre, Juanita
 Sayre, William
 Schoolcraft, Mrs. A. A.
 Schweikart, Helen
 Schroder, Mrs. Annis Ross
 Scott, John B.
 Scott, Mrs. John B.
 Scott, David
 Scott, Minnie
 Sexton, Mrs. French
 Shaffer, Charles R. Jr.

Shannon, Arthur G.
 Sharps, Harry E.
 Shaw, John C.
 Shaw, Joseph C.
 Shaw, Mrs. Joseph C.
 Sheets, Mrs. Mary M.
 Sheets, Pauline
 Sheppard, Ilene
 Shreve, Mrs. Louvina
 Shroyer, Mrs. Minnie P.
 Shumaker, Mrs. J. M.
 Shumaker, Osbert
 Shumaker, Layne
 Simons, Mrs. Dora
 Simons, Darla
 Simons, Dove
 Simons, Janice
 Simons, Mrs. Zelma I.
 Simpson, Franklin H.
 Simpson, Virginia
 Sipe, Mrs. Mittie
 Skidmore, Mrs. Dora B.
 Skidmore, Wilbur M.
 Smallridge, Mary Katherine
 Smallridge, Gretchen Gottfried
 Smith, Mrs. Arthur H.
 Smith, Hartzell
 Smith, Mrs. Hartzell
 Smith, Velma May
 Smith, William
 Smith, Wilma
 Smith, Isa
 Smith, Lasa
 Smith, Warren Lee
 Smith, Mrs. Helen Green
 Snider, Mrs. C. A.
 Snodgrass, Mrs. Ella
 Snodgrass, Flossie
 Snodgrass, Leta
 Snyder, Mrs. Melba Smith
 Sorton, Mrs. Genevieve Baxa
 Spitznogle, Mrs. Lois Deeds
 Stalnaker, I. A.
 Stalnaker, Mrs. I. A.
 Stalnaker, Merle
 Stalnaker, Herbert P.
 Stalnaker, Mrs. Herbert P.
 Stalnaker, Carol Gene
 Stanley, Mrs. Carrie
 Stanley, Kenneth
 Stanley, Dwight
 Steele, H. G.
 Steele, Mrs. Pauline Linton
 Steele, Marion C.
 Steele, Mrs. Marion C.
 Stewart, Mrs. Grace M.
 Stewart, Clifford
 Stewart, Dwight L. Jr.
 Stewart, John H.
 Stewart, Mark
 Stewart, Margaret
 Stockert, Mrs. John M.
 Stockert, Helen
 Stockert, Mrs. Thos. L. Jr.
 Strader, Mrs. Maude
 Strader, Martha
 Strader, Robert G.
 Stump, Mrs. Hill
 Stump, Forrest
 Swick, Mrs. Iva May
 Swisher, Mrs. W. H.
 Swisher, Genevieve
 Swisher, Mrs. Sally
 Tabscott, Mrs. Betty Hoffman
 Tamblyn, Wesley C.
 Tamblyn, Mrs. Wesley C.
 Tamblyn, June
 Taylor, Walter T.
 Taylor, Mrs. Walter T.
 Taylor, Donald L.
 Taylor, Mrs. Phyllis Haymond
 Taylor, Mrs. T. A.
 Taylor, Eileen
 Tenney, Charles
 Tenney, Mrs. Charles
 Tenney, Joan
 Teter, Catherine Vie
 Thorpe, Genevieve
 Thomas, Rosemary
 Thompson, H. Howard
 Thompson, Mrs. H. Howard
 Thompson, Grace Elizabeth
 Thrasher, Mrs. Audria
 Thrasher, Herbert Maxwell
 Thurman, Mrs. Mary Alice Barlow
 Tolman, Mrs. Ruth Phillips
 Tonkins, William
 Tonkins, Mrs. Wm.
 Travis, Mrs. Eula
 Travis, Mrs. Lena
 Travis, Kathryn Ann
 Trimble, Willa Mae
 Trippett, Mrs. Willard F.
 Trippett, Karl
 Trippett, L. H.
 Tyree, Jack
 Tyree, Mrs. Jack
 Underwood, William
 Underwood, Ruth
 Vandervort, Paul
 Vincent, Mrs. Virginia
 Wagoner, Mrs. F. C.

Waggoner, Sanford
 Waggy, William
 Waggy, Mrs. William
 Waggy, William Jr.
 Waggy, Geraldine
 Waggy, James
 Ward, Mrs. Edmone
 Ward, Olive
 Ward, Helen
 Wamsley, Mrs. Ira
 Warner, Victor
 Warner, Mrs. Victor
 Warner, Junior
 Warner, C. L.
 Warner, Mrs. C. L.
 Watkins, Mrs. David A.
 Watkins, Betty Jane
 Watkins, David A. Jr.
 Watkins, Dolores Jean
 Watkins, Mrs. Dora Miller
 Watson, O. A.
 Waugh, H. Roy
 Waugh, Mrs. H. Roy
 Waugh, John
 Waugh, Icie
 Weaver, Mrs. Eugene
 Weaver, Thomas F.
 Weaver, Mrs. Thos. F.
 Weaver, James
 Weaver, Jennibelle
 Weaver, Robert
 Weaver, Thomas
 Webster, Mrs. Willard Brown
 Weekley, Mrs. Florence
 Wells, Mrs. Wilsie Liggett
 Wentz, Mrs. Dolly Schoolcraft
 Wereley, Edward C.
 Wereley, Mrs. Edward C.
 Wereley, Liggett
 Wereley, Jansen
 West, Garland
 West, Mrs. Garland
 West, Barbara Jean
 West, Charles Garland
 West, Sherman
 Wethered, Patricia
 Wethered, Willa Louise
 White, Ison T.
 White, Clarke
 White, David
 White, Ison T. Jr.
 White, Mrs. Minnie Carper
 White, W. E.
 White, Mrs. W. E.
 White, Avis
 Whitescarver, B. F.
 Wilfong, Mrs. Carl

Williams, Alonzo
 Williams, Mrs. Alonzo
 Williams, Jacqueline
 Williams, Augustine
 Williams, Heyward
 Williams, Mrs. Heyward
 Williams, Barbara
 Williams, Mrs. Harriett
 Williams, Mrs. Kenneth
 Williams, Mrs. Fred L.
 Williams, J. Brunson
 Williams, Mrs. R. H.
 Wilson, Mrs. Minnie
 Wilson, Mrs. Margaret H. Watson
 Wilt, Mrs. Meta Young
 Withers, Mrs. Horace H.
 Wolfe, Mrs. A. S.
 Wolfe, Mrs. C. O.
 Wolfe, Mrs. Marjorie Pifer
 Wolfe, Mrs. Blanche
 Wolfe, John B.
 Wolfe, Harry S.
 Wolfe, Tracy
 Wood, Mrs. Merle
 Woofter, Mrs. Rose
 Woodyard, T. L.
 Woodyard, Mrs. T. L.
 Woodyard, Carolee
 Woodyard, Leaschen Lou
 Woreley, Mrs. Mable Linton
 Young, Earle W.
 Young, Mrs. Earle W.
 Young, Richard
 Young, Ed. C.
 Young, Mrs. Ed. C.
 Young, Elfia
 Young, U. G. Jr.
 Young, Mrs. U. G. Jr.
 Young, Mrs. U. G. Sr.
 Young, Hugh F.
 Young, Mrs. Hugh F.
 Young, Linwood H.
 Young, Mrs. Linwood H.
 Young, M. R.
 Young, Mrs. M. R.
 Young, Ralph Stillman
 Young, Paul
 Young, Mrs. Paul
 Young, Mrs. Ellis
 Young, John
 Young, Orice
 Zickefoose, Mrs. Gem
 Zickefoose, Mayton
 Zickefoose, H. A.
 Zickefoose, Mrs. H. A.
 Zickefoose, Ruth
 Zimmerman, Nelia

ADDENDUM

Clawson, Thomas
Clawson, Mrs. Grace
Dunlap, Ruth Ann
Gass, W. Baxter
Gass, Mrs. Ruth
Gass, Jerry

Hudkins, G. S.
Hudkins, Mrs. Garnett
Miller, John W.
Miller, Mrs. Reva
Miller, Johnny

The Buckhannon Record
September, 1945



MARCIA-MAE GLAUNER

Marcia-Mae Horton Glauner, chairman of the history and records committee of the First United Methodist Church, has long been associated with First Church. She is a past president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and has served on the administrative board in various capacities.

She arrived in Buckhannon in 1922 as a transfer student from Allegheny College to West Virginia Wesleyan College. After graduation in 1924, she taught English and history in Buckhannon High School prior to her marriage to George L. Glauner, a professor in the history department at Wesleyan College. They have one son, John, who majored in music at Wesleyan, and who has been a band director in various high schools.

Because of the shortage of teachers in the 1940's, Mrs. Glauner returned to teaching English and supervising the library at the Upshur County High School. Later she taught history and Bible in the high school and freshman English at Wesleyan. She was on the library staff for six years at Wesleyan.

Her other activities include membership in the American Association of University Women and Alpha Gamma Delta social sorority which she served also as a member of the international Grand Council.

At the present time Marcia-Mae is in charge of the Methodist Room at Wesleyan College library where she enjoys tracing genealogies and helping with the histories of local churches.



Writing the history of "my" church from 1940 to 1980 has been more of a challenge than I anticipated. Although I strove for accuracy, this work is not perfect.

In many instances records were missing, those persons involved were long gone, and for the sake of brevity many accounts which might have been of interest to individuals were simply omitted.

Nevertheless, this is a labour of love. It has meant hours of concern and dedication on the part of several individuals, including countless numbers of board and church secretaries who preserved and maintained records over the years.

Dr. Thomas W. Haught's original church history which ends with 1940 was an inspiration and certainly a fine example for one to follow.

I cannot give enough credit to Marcia-Mae Glauner who pushed, prodded and insisted that I get to work and complete this brief dissertation. Recognition and thanks must go, too, to Inez Manser who laboriously scanned the board minutes for these 40 years and jotted down for me every highlight of every board meeting in this span of time.

I have many individuals to thank for their time and energy in compiling material from so very many sources.

The previous ministers were generous in sharing their lives and times while serving First Church. Betty Colerider checked years of issues of "The Link." Mabel Weaver's account of the WSCS and UMW is included, as is Frances Hamner's recollections while

church organist for 50 years. Myron B. Hymes' thorough records of contracts, leases, purchases, bequests, property valuations, inventories, etc. were priceless for their information and historical value. Gaye Nease is thanked for her search of minutes and records concerning youth activities. Charles L. Wereley has helped immensely with his complete record of leaders for Boy Scout Troop 128. His mother, Elnora L. Wereley, has provided us with a step back into time with her family's account of life in the **old** Methodist Church. I would be most remiss if I failed to thank Howard Hiner for the loan of pictures he has taken over the years of church events and John Glauner whose photography of recent events is displayed for your enjoyment.

Above all, I hope the reader is enlightened and aware of the care, concern, love and spirit that permeates "our" church because of the many simple and more often complex acts of courage from devoted members of the congregation.

May the Lord bless each and every one of you--
Betty H. Van Kirk, August, 1980

Pastoral and Administrative Leadership for First
United Methodist Church, Buckhannon since 1945

BISHOPS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| James H. Straughn | 1940-1948 (Pittsburgh Area) |
| Lloyd C. Wicke | 1948-1960 (Pittsburgh Area) |
| Fred G. Holloway | 1960-1968 (West Virginia Area) |
| D. Fredrick Wertz | 1968-1980 (West Virginia Area) |
| William B. Grove | 1980 |

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Hugh E. Kelso | 1942-1948 |
| W. S. Patterson | 1948-1953 |
| T. M. Zumbrunnen | 1953-1959 |
| John E. Hanifan | 1959-1964 |
| Frank L. Shaffer, Sr. | 1964-1969 |
| Robert E. Dille | 1969-1975 |
| John M. Geary | 1975-1979 |
| Harold T. Elmore | 1979- |

MINISTERS

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Ross Linger | 1940-1949 |
| Wayne F. Ransom | 1949-1952 |
| Samuel A. Harford | 1952-1960 |
| Rossing Smith | 1960-1965 |
| Charles Godwin | 1965-1977 |
| Harry P. Light | 1977- |

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Charles Collins | 1950 |
| (Student Ass't. Pastor) | |
| Ronald McCauley | 1962-1964 |
| Joseph Kidd | 1964-1965 |
| Harry Jenkins | 1966-1969 |
| Frank Bourner | 1969-1970 |
| Ross Linger | 1970-1973 |
| Philip Petrosky | 1973-1974 |
| (Educational Assistant) | |
| Dan Bryan | 1974-1978 |
| Heather M. Elkins | 1978- |

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Dr. J. L. Hupp | 1943-1945 |
| Kenneth O. Phillips | 1948-1962 |
| Raymond Kiser | 1962-1968 |
| Frank Berisford | 1968-1980 |
| John C. Burgess | 1980- |

BOARD OFFICERS

- 1945--W. T. O'Brien resigned as treasurer after 12 years of service.
W. C. Cade assumed the position of treasurer.
- 1957--Newton S. Anderson was elected chairman of the Administrative Board.
- 1959--Herbert Stalnaker, secretary since 1929, resigned.
- 1960--Newton S. Anderson, chairman
James I. Ling, vice chairman
Mrs. Helen (W. B.) Fleming, secretary
- 1961--Leslie Miles, chairman
James I. Ling, vice chairman
Mrs. Helen Fleming, secretary
- 1962--Leslie Miles, chairman
James I. Ling, vice chairman
Mrs. Stanley H. Martin, secretary
W. A. Young, treasurer
W. C. Cade, financial secretary
- 1963-1971--David Reemsnyder, chairman
Other officers reelected
- 1964--Mrs. Helen Fleming resigned after 24 years on the official board
- 1964--David Reemsnyder, chairman
Dwight Mikkleson, vice chairman
Willard Wimer, treasurer
(W. A. Young resigned)
Mrs. Ralph Shattuck, financial secretary
(W. C. Cade resigned after 20 years on board)
- 1965--David Reemsnyder, chairman
Dwight Mikkleson, vice chairman
Robert Craig, financial secretary
Willard Wimer, treasurer

- 1966--Willard Wimer resigned as treasurer
Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Bennett assumed
offices of treasurer and financial secretary
- 1967-1968--David Reemsnyder, chairman
Carl F. Hoylman, vice chairman
Robert Craig, secretary
Wayman Bennett, treasurer
Mrs. Wayman Bennett, financial secretary
- 1969-1970--Official Board now called Administrative
Board
David Reemsnyder, chairman
Carl F. Hoylman, vice chairman
Robert Craig, secretary
Mrs. Glenn R. Dutton, financial secretary
Glenn R. Dutton, treasurer
(The Duttons resigned positions in 1973)
- 1971--David Reemsnyder resigned as chairman of
the board
Patton Nickell, Jr. elected chairman of
Administrative Board
Other officers remained the same
- 1972--Officers remain the same
- 1973-1977--Patton Nickell, Jr., chairman
Carl F. Hoylman, vice chairman
Robert Craig, secretary
Don. E. Williams, treasurer
Mrs. Don E. Williams, financial secretary
- 1978--David Reemsnyder, chairman of the board
W. T. O'Brien, secretary-treasurer
- 1980--Patton Nickell, Jr., chairperson
Charles Wereley, vice chairperson
Don Williams, treasurer
Mrs. Don Williams, financial secretary
Miss Susan Smith, recording secretary
William A. Young, treasurer, building fund
Myron B. Hymes, Jr., president of trustees



ROSS LINGER
1940-1949

The warning rumblings of impending World War II were being heard when Ross Linger assumed the pulpit of the First Methodist Church in 1940. During his tenure he would lead his congregation through the worst of the "great wars" as every family was affected and touched by enlistment of either father, brother, son, nephew or friends.

Rev. Linger describes his first 14 months in Buckhannon as the happiest time in his long ministry. He came to First Church just seven years after graduation from Wesleyan College. In 1940 his salary was \$2,500 annually and the minister paid all of his own utilities including the coal bill for the parsonage. When he left Buckhannon in 1949 his salary had increased to \$4,000. Following graduation from seminary, he owed school debts of \$5,000 and it was 33 years and one month before he repaid the loan in full at six percent interest.

His first sermon that Sunday morning was entitled "That One Face" and in the congregation were many of his professors and the college president, Dr. Roy McCuskey, who just seven years previously had known Ross Linger as a student. Among the professors was Dr. T. W. Haught who had once accused a college class of being "a bunch of dumbbells and dumb billies!" Ross often wondered what Dr. Haught was thinking that Sunday morning as Ross stood in the pulpit while Dr. Haught sat in the congregation.

Rev. Linger recalls that the late Willis Casto, father of Mrs. Percy Karickhoff, invited him to dinner following that first sermon.

This period of tranquility and happiness changed dramatically when Dr. George Glauner, professor of history at Wesleyan, announced, following a Christmas program at the college, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

In March of 1943, approximately 350 cadets of the 49th College Training Detachment of the Army Air Force marched from a train up South Florida Street, turning at the church, and traveling on to Wesleyan where they would study and train for military duty. Many of these young men and their families attended Sunday morning services and became a part of the church community.

Richard Byrne was the first casualty from the congregation. He was killed in an air accident while training in Florida. Ralph "Dutch" Travis, killed in action in the South Pacific, wrote a letter home just one week before his death in which he talked about getting back to his old place in the church balcony. Traditionally, the boys sat on one side of the church in the balcony facing the girls who sat on the other side. The following Sunday Rev. Linger conducted a memorial service for "Dutch."

The young men of First Methodist Church who lost their lives in this war included Richard Byrne, Robert Waggy, Robert Reger, Ralph Travis and Robert Black.

There were numerous wartime marriages--some planned for the sanctuary of the church, but many were performed in the living room of the parsonage without notice and in many cases with the three-day legal "waiting period" waived by permission of the local circuit court judge.

Tragically, the Ross Linger family would, too, be touched by wartime and its consequences, testing their faith beyond anything imagined.

In a recently taped interview, Dr. Linger described the saddest experience of his ministry in the death of their older daughter, Lorna Aletta, their granddaughter, Judith Ann, and their son-in-law, Robert M. Black, the last day of December, 1946 in a private plane crash in Augsburg, Germany.

Quoting Dr. Linger, he relates "We didn't know anything had happened until about 6:30 a.m. when Glenn and Pauline Dutton came to the parsonage and rang the doorbell. They informed us that word had come from newspaper accounts that this accident had occurred. The Duttons had been called by their daughter, Betty Dutton Hornbeck, who lived in Morgantown at the time. Betty was up early to feed her infant son, picked up the morning paper and read an Associated Press release that a West Virginia family, the Blacks, had been killed in a plane crash in Germany. The Duttons were as incredulous at the news as was Betty, but came down to tell

us. Glenn and I went out to the village of Lorentz to inform Robert's parents.

"In a very little while flowers began to arrive, there were gifts of food, and people called by phone. If it had not been for Glenn and Pauline's telling us when they did, these things would have been arriving without our knowing why.

"We never have understood why the government didn't inform us--the next of kin--but word came later by telegram. I began to contact authorities in Washington, D. C. and the one who answered the phone in one office was the late local newspaper publisher, W. Herbert Welch, then executive assistant to Congressman Rohrbough. West Virginia's U. S. Senator Kilgore was contacted as was the Red Cross.

"We received information that Bob's body would be returned to any national cemetery in the country but the telegram also said 'not responsible, repeat, not responsible for the bodies of wife and child.' That was one of the reasons I went to such pains to see what we could do about recovering the bodies. We were told later by those friends in the armed forces and stationed there with Bob that the bodies lay on the ground for two or three days without anything being done for them until the matter of responsibility was cleared. The bodies were returned to us. Lorna and Judith at our expense and Bob's at government expense, and their funerals were held here in this church in February 1947."

There would be happier times for the Linger family. During the pastorate in Buckhannon First Church, all three of their children graduated from high school, and two from Wesleyan College. Dr. Linger performed all three marriages of his children. The first was Lorna to Robert Black on Dec. 22, 1943; their son, Leon to Melba Smith on Sept. 3, 1947; and their youngest daughter, Leoma, to Charles Robert Straight, May 23, 1948.

Dr. Linger baptized his first three grandchildren--Judith Ann Black, November 1945; David Robert Straight and Lorna Aletta Linger on Aug. 31, 1949. He officiated at the marriage of a grandson, Stephen Straight to Denise St. Clair on May 29, 1976, and baptized a great-grandson in February 1979.

Attendance at Sunday morning church services averaged around 1,000 as the First Church was known as "the college church" and college students swelled the congregation.

The nation and the church returned to normalcy following "The War" and it was soon apparent to official board members that some refurbishing, decorating, painting and preventive maintenance were badly needed. The old coal furnace was dismantled and replaced at a cost of \$2,237.70. In 1947, board members accepted a contract for the "cleaning of all pews and woodwork, sanding of floors and steps, the refinishing of floors and steps, the painting of

the sanctuary, all entrances from the basement up, the painting of all Sunday School rooms, the cleaning of the large church window and skylight" for the sum of \$3,860.

Little had been done in the way of redecorating during the war years. In fact, in 1940 Fay Jones, long-time caretaker at the church, and Ross Linger visited Crim Memorial Church in Philippi and built Communion trays and rails similar to those in Crim Church. These are still being used today (1980). Previously, all ordained clergy in the congregation would be invited to assist the minister and to serve people using hand carried trays.

A rededication service was held Sunday, July 3, 1947 in celebration of the completion of extensive improvements, repainting and the relighting of the church. A new pulpit Bible, contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Young, was used for the first time. A new bronze altar set, contributed by the Goodwin children in memory of their parents, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Goodwin, pastor of the church from 1929-34, was dedicated.

The year of 1947 also marked the purchase of the residence of the late Dr. L. W. Page as permanent residence of the superintendent of the Buckhannon District. Dr. H. E. Kelso moved into the property in early August.

Dr. Linger headed a group in the Upshur County Ministerial Association which began a religious census of Upshur County, the first in the history of the church. That same month, October, the First Church joined with the membership of Central Methodist Church for special evangelistic services with the Rev. P. Raymond Powers of Akron, Ohio as preacher.

Minutes from the official board note that on Oct. 6, 1947 Miss Barbara Sommerville was employed as a youth director for the salary of \$150 annually. She continued in that position until August 1, 1949 when Margaret Ann Cyphres was employed. It seems that the church has employed a youth director almost continuously since that time.

In 1947, the High School Boys' Sunday School Class donated two new collection plates. This indicates that boys and girls met separately for Sunday School but there seems to be no record when that tradition changed to mixed company.

In 1948, average attendance in the youth department of Sunday School was 15. Evening attendance for Methodist Youth Fellowship was 22 with a total membership on the rolls of 55.

Ross Linger recalls that the largest group he ever received into membership of the church was Palm Sunday, 1944 when he received 60 persons standing three deep at the altar.

In 1949, three choirs were featured in a Sunday night performance when the First Methodist Church marked the 15th anniversary of the senior choir and paid special tribute to Mrs. W. C. Manser, choir

director, and Mrs. Allen Hamner, Jr., organist, both of whom had served since the choir's inception in 1934. The girls' choir was organized in 1936 by Mrs. Manser and the boys' choir in 1948 by Mrs. W. T. O'Brien.

The fall of 1949 Mrs. Linger describes as the most difficult move of all their transfers. They left Buckhannon when Ross assumed the district superintendency of Moorefield District (now Romney District.) Their son-in-law and daughter, Charles and Leoma Straight, moved to Florida to accept teaching positions and their son, Leon, moved to Philadelphia to enter medical school. Mrs. Linger felt that the Lingers were "scattered to the winds."

Today, Leoma and Charles Straight reside in Chillicothe, Ohio, where both are teachers. They are the parents of three sons, David Robert, Stephen Albert and Ross Edward, and one daughter, Lorna Alicia. Dr. and Mrs. E. Leon (Melba Smith) Linger reside in Clarksburg and they are the parents of two sons, Garrett Leon and Timothy Ross, and a daughter, Aletta Marie. The Lingers have eight great-grandchildren.



WAYNE F. RANSOM
1949-1952

The Rev. Wayne F. Ransom assumed the pastorate of First Church with a membership of 957 active members and 133 inactive members for a total of 1,090. It became quite apparent that a congregation of this size required more than the normal volunteer services. On April 10, 1950, the board approved the employment of a full-time janitor at a salary of \$1,200 annually with free house rent. The board also voted to employ an assistant minister "if a good one can be found." Evidently a good one was found for Charles Collins was employed as student assistant pastor at the end of the conference year.

Attendance at Sunday worship services had swelled and a committee was appointed to investigate the advisability of installing a public address system. In June, 1950, a system was ordered installed at a cost of \$150 with the labor of installation donated by William A. Hallam, professor of mathematics at Wesleyan College.

Prof. Hallam was a personal friend of Wayne Ransom. Hallam had joined Wesleyan's faculty while Wayne was still a student there. The two of them often took their meals at "Ma" Mick's on Meade Street, so their acquaintance went back for several years. Another close personal friend of the Ransoms was David Reemsnyder, who also joined Wesleyan's faculty when Wayne was a student there.

Rev. Ramsom recalls that ties between the church and Wesleyan

College were close during his ministry at First Church. The campus community--teachers, administrators, students--strengthened the church both by attendance and support. Two former Wesleyan presidents, Dr. Homer Wark and Dr. Wallace B. Fleming, were present in church and active in their support. Rev. Ransom happily remembers as a significant part of the church life the work of former Wesleyan president, Dr. William John Scarborough, and professors, Dean Arthur Schoolcraft, Dr. Thomas B. Haught, Dr. Lewis Chrisman, Dr. Ralph C. Brown, Dr. George Glauner and Miss Nellie Wilson--all very special people.

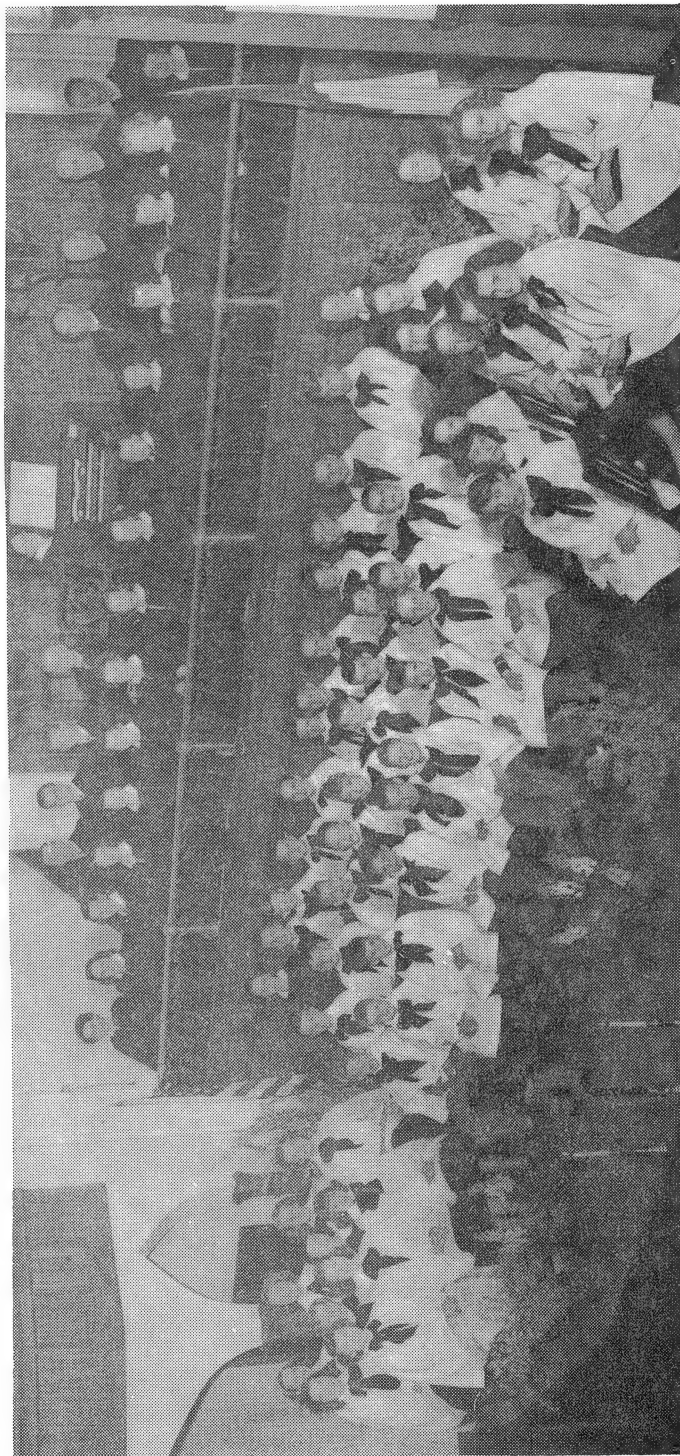
An anniversary committee, chaired by Mrs. Ralph C. Brown, planned a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church in 1950. Elaborate plans were made for the last weekend of November, including a dramatization written by Miss Esther Crisman, a member of Wesleyan's faculty, which depicted the church from its pioneer beginnings to the present day. Dr. Roy McCuskey, former president of Wesleyan College who resided in Parkersburg, was scheduled to preach the anniversary sermon. An anniversary "party" was to be held Sunday evening with women of the church attired in old-fashioned dresses, serving a beautiful cake and everyone participating in special musical offerings.

A problem arose. The cooperative intent of the weather man was not considered. On Thanksgiving Day it started to snow and continued unabated through Friday night. Saturday morning, the state and nation awakened with four feet of snow on the ground. The anniversary celebration was postponed until the following weekend. The drama was presented on Saturday night, Dr. W. S. Patterson preached the anniversary sermon, and there was a Sunday night party, but it didn't come off with the "bang" that was originally expected.

The first of many Loyalty Dinners for the raising of funds for the church budget were introduced during Rev. Ransom's tenure. First adopted in 1950, the dinners continued until 1959.

The church calendar year was changed to begin on June 1, a Cub Pack was sponsored for the first time, a church census was completed, financial assistance to the Boy Scout Troop was included in the church budget for the first time, and a special offering for financial assistance to the AME Church was collected.

In 1947, the West Virginia Annual Conference launched a drive to raise one million dollars for the Retired Pastors' Reserve Pension Fund, a three year program. When Rev. Ransom arrived in Buckhannon in the fall of 1949, he learned that First Church had done very little to pay its apportionment. Myron B. Hymes, Sr. was chairman of the finance committee and Rev. Ransom talked with him and committee members about the importance of meeting the church's goal for sharing in the pension fund. Mr. and Mrs. Hymes



COMBINED CHOIRS OF 1952--Girls, Left, front row, left to right, Jean Miller, Barbara Ours, Gay Whitesell; second row, Lois Ann McWhorter, Patti Wilt, Charlotte Agey and Betty June Koon; back row, Dotty Phillips, Marianna Young and Jo Ann Williams; girls, right, front row, Ann Page, Patti Queen, Patti Hall; second row, Kay Thacker, unidentified, Dorothy Simmons, unidentified and Shirley Craven; third row, Dottie Burner, unidentified and Jo Ann Hinkle; boys, center, left to right, Larry Phillips, Tommy Laign, David Brooks, Phil Pappas, Jack Berthy, Jack Wilfong, Dick Ralston and Frank Hartman; second row, John Curry, Craig Meck, Billy O'Brien, David Young, Renny Hall, Bob Layfield II, Vic DeBarr, Allan DeBarr, Lola Bonar, Bill Wilt, Bill Hall, Harold Berthy, Jeff Manser, unidentified, Bobby Newell, Matt Hymes, unidentified, Dick Light, David Floyd, John Arnold and Mrs. Esther O'Brien; senior choir, front row, left to right, unidentified, unidentified, Mildred Jackson, Bonnie Bowyer, Velma Wagner, Ruth Ross, Inez Manser, Lota Marie Wilfong, Frances Lynch, the next three are unidentified, Amy Bowyer, Mrs. J. E. Judson and unidentified; back row, Fred Wilt, unidentified, unidentified, Homer Dawson, Perce Ross, Frank Leonard, O. D. Arnold, unidentified and the organist, Mrs. Frances Hamner.

scheduled one or more breakfast meetings in their home and launched a campaign to meet the obligation. In little more than a year, the apportionment on the pension fund was fully paid--\$462 collected with new pledges totaling \$667--a tribute to the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Hymes and to the devotion and generosity of the congregation.

An interesting tradition was started about this time. Homer Dawson was a faithful member of the choir. His favorite hymn was "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" using the third tune "Diadem." It was evident to the choir members and the congregation that Mr. Dawson thoroughly enjoyed the bass part of the chorus. Therefore, it became the custom for all those in the bass section to allow Mr. Dawson to have that part as a solo.

Starting in the 1970s and continuing today it also became a tradition for Dr. Robert C. Chamberlain to sing "The Holy City" each Palm Sunday.

In recent correspondence, Rev. Ransom recalls two incidents involving their son, Don, which didn't add anything worthy to the reputation of "preacher's kids," Rev. Ransom notes. Soon after the arrival of the Ransom family, Don, then two years of age, got away from his mother and stormed into the sanctuary from the parsonage through the front door causing an interruption in his father's Sunday morning sermon. Off the cuff, Rev. Ransom introduced Don to the congregation as "another version of atomic energy." David Reemsnyder's son, David, and Don were the same age, born just days apart, so Mr. Reemsnyder knew what Rev. Ransom was talking about. "I can still hear Dave's outburst of laughter on that Sunday," Rev. Ransom writes. Years later, young Dave and Don were students and close friends at Wesleyan College and played together in the college band.

On another occasion, W. C. Cade, who at the time was financial secretary of the church, noticed while walking alongside the church that one of the evergreen shrubs was shaking. Stopping to investigate, he found Don sawing on the shrub with a set of play tools he had received for Christmas. Mr. Cade asked Don what he was doing and Don, who was three years old at the time, replied, "I'm cutting down a tree!" Don may have started a beautification project because the plantings around the church had outgrown themselves and needed to be replaced. Not long afterwards, that improvement came to pass.

In June, 1952, Rev. Ransom expressed his surprise when on a Saturday morning he was given an hour and a half to decide whether to accept the district superintendency of the Beckley District.

He accepted the appointment and the following year, 1953, was elected to Wesleyan's board of trustees where he served until 1969. As a member of the board, Rev. Ransom was on the long range

planning committee which envisioned the campus expansion, new buildings and increased enrollment that followed in the decade ahead.

From 1970 until 1975, he was under special appointment by the bishop as a teacher at West Virginia University. In 1976, Rev. Ransom accepted appointment as an associate pastor to Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church in Huntington. "We own our home here and will continue living here after retirement from my present appointment," he writes. "The year 1981 will mark my 50th year in the ministry of the church."

Their daughter, Frances Jean (Jeanne), is married to Jack Seckman, and they have two children, a son and a daughter, who are teenagers. Jeanne graduated from Wesleyan in 1962. She teaches in Commack Junior High School in Huntington and the family lives in Barboursville.

Their son, Donald Wayne (Don), graduated from Wesleyan in 1969 and lives in Woodstock, Vermont, where he has an interest in a retail business. The Ransom's second daughter, Mary Angela, Mrs. Dean Nelson, lives in the heart of Manhattan, New York City. She is a registered nurse and received her training at the University of Cincinnati and Christ Hospital. The Nelsons have a very special three-year-old daughter, Deanna Leigh.

In recalling his days at First Methodist Church, Rev. Ransom states "my heart has been warmed and made grateful in the recall of faces, names and associations of my days there as pastor." He writes, "I suppose there must have been some grief and problems during our time serving there but they are now beyond recall. What we do remember and easily recall is the joy of serving the people of Buckhannon, their kindness and the love they shared with us, and the happiness we had as a family living there.

"Mrs. Eleanor Williams who lived on Meade Street was a very dear person to me and my family all through our stay in Buckhannon," he continues. "While there she gave me a portable communion set which I have used countless times across the years, and still use today in serving communion to the ill, aged and homebound. The day we moved from Buckhannon to Beckley, Mrs. Williams had the Ransom family for breakfast.

"Another special woman in the church was Janie Lou Overstreet who at my insistence started teaching a young adult class in the church school. She was one of the most effective teachers of the Word I have known. She kept the class going for many years. The only problem we had with the class was finding space large enough to accommodate the class members," Rev. Ransom concludes.

SAMUEL A. HARFORD 1952-60

Samuel A. Harford entered the pulpit and assumed the church leadership for the salary of \$4,800 annually. One of his first suggestions was the organization of a Methodist Men's group with all those interested meeting at the parsonage on July 9, 1952. By 1957 as many as 57 men were in attendance at the dinner meeting and recreation facilities in the basement of the church which had been approved by the board.

By 1953 the board minutes recorded "the deplorable condition of our church and parsonage." Board members also called attention to the urgent need for repairs to the church organ.

After due deliberation the bids of L. W. Barnhart for \$1,200 to \$1,400 to repair the pipe organ "putting it in first class condition" were accepted. An order for new carpeting in the church sanctuary was placed with Shannon's Hardware Co. and in January of 1953 the official board contracted with Leslie Teets for the painting of the interior and exterior of the church building for the sum of \$3,590.

In June, 1953 the finance committee recommended that a Fairmont firm be employed to repair the roof and install all gutters and flashings from 16 ounce copper.

Problems of maintenance and repair of the physical plant occupied time of the finance committee and the official board for several months. For instance, in March of 1953 it was reported that a pew fell down in the sanctuary shortly after Sunday morning services. Because of improper lighting on the Florida Street entrance, one of the parishioners fell and broke her hip.

Throughout Rev. Harford's tenure as pastor he would be plagued by problems of maintenance and repair. In January, 1954, he reported that the Loyalty Dinners would attempt to raise \$40,000 for budget and building repairs. Pianos in the church were tuned for \$3.00 each; the work of pointing up the brick and resetting the brick in the tower was completed; windows and woodwork were installed, plastering completed, 12 doors in the sanctuary replaced to match eight previously installed, church grounds were landscaped, new chairs were ordered for the choir loft, new floor laid on the parsonage porch, doors and windows of the church and parsonage were weather-stripped, new chairs and folding chairs were ordered, ornamental handrails at the Florida Street entrance donated, new carpets installed in the parsonage, new flags furnished for the sanctuary, music racks and choir robes purchased, the organ repaired again for the sum of \$3,000, new gas lines installed after a bad leak was discovered, the church kitchen painted and a venting fan and screens installed.

It is interesting to note that the value of the church buildings in 1957 (church, organ, parsonage and permanent fixtures) was \$448,546 and in 1978 the church and parsonage was appraised by an industrial appraisal company at \$1,491,659. (In 1964, the educational building was valued at \$145,453 and in 1978, \$374,820).

Not all problems concerned the physical plant. A special meeting of the official board was called on Nov. 18, 1956 when Rev. Harford reported that Wesleyan College fraternities and sororities and the Methodist Youth Fellowship had made a request to have social groups in the church basement for social fun. One group wanted to have a covered-dish dinner, having as guests members of the opposite sex, and a record player for music and dancing.

After some discussion, the board members passed with two dissenting votes "that the board grant permission to church groups to use the basement for dancing and games, providing the groups are properly chaperoned." The matter did not rest there for on Dec. 3, 1956. a representative of the Woman's Society of Christian Service requested that the board reconsider its action. Dr. and Mrs. G. L. Glauner were chaperones at a fraternity social meeting and reported there was no loud noise, no drinking, and only quiet music. Mrs. T. F. Weaver stated she thought it was "grand" that the church basement had been available and wished it had been done while her children were at home. A motion upholding the previous action passed with three dissenting votes.

First Church continued to call itself the "college church." As an example of the many activities related to Wesleyan students, the church in 1956 joined with three other church congregations to fete incoming Wesleyan freshmen with receptions and dinners. In 1952, Wesleyan freshmen were entertained at the third annual "Mom" dinner.

In 1954, board minutes recorded that Kenneth O. Phillips, superintendent of Sunday School, reported unsatisfactory conditions in the Sunday School because of crowded conditions with 300 youths in attendance. He also recommended the extension of Sunday School for children, ages six months to six years, with paid personnel to care for children during church services at a probable cost of \$150 to \$225 annually.

In March of 1957, letters were read from Mrs. W. T. O'Brien, secretary of the WSCS, recommending that a building project in the form of an educational unit be undertaken as soon as possible, and, from Kenneth O. Phillips, chairman of the Commission on Education, urging the erection of an educational unit to the church with a token pledge from the commission of \$1,000. It was voted that the chairman appoint a commission to investigate the need and kind of educational unit needed by the church and to report back to the board.

Almost lost in the minutes of the official board was a statement that foreshadowed a coming event, a prophetic indication, which would change the course of history in America. On Nov, 11, 1957, the minutes stated "Be it resolved that First Methodist Church, Buckhannon, West Virginia, by action of its official board will admit into its membership **any** person professing belief in God through Jesus Christ regardless of **race, color or nationality.**"

In June, 1958, a deed was conveyed to the trustees of the First Methodist Church for the Kidd Lockard property situated at the corner of Latham and Meade Streets. This was only the third real estate transaction recorded since the building of the current church structure in 1909 when Nathan L. Bumgardner and Mary Elizabeth Bumgardner transferred land to J. W. Heavner and the trustees. The second land transaction was in 1945 when Arthur Bayard Forman transferred to A. G. Shannon and trustees a lot fronting on Florida Street which is now the site of the Educational Building.

In 1959, Mrs. W. C. Manser, who had been choir director for over 25 years resigned to accept a teaching position out of state. Her salary for many, many years was \$50 monthly out of which she purchased her own choir robe. A gift of \$25 was voted for Mrs. Manser by the board in recognition of her years of service.

With this mention of Mrs. Manser whose name has been synonymous with the history of the church choir, it seems appropriate at this point to deviate somewhat from the chronological history of the church to record some information about the church choirs as recalled by Mrs. Allen Hamner.

In 1940, Mrs. Manser was serving as choir director with Mrs. Hamner as organist. They had held these positions since 1934. Mrs. Lota Marie Wilfong has served for many years as assistant organist.

At this time there was in addition to the Senior Choir a very active Girls' Choir of 36 members. Church volunteers sewed the 36 robes and there was always a waiting list of young people to join this choir. The Girls' Choir sang at Sunday night services and the morning services during the month of August and often joined with the Senior Choir on Sunday morning for special programs. The Girls' Choir also sang for early services for several years. This choir served the longest of any other youth choir--a period of 15 years. The girls entered the choir as seventh grade students and sang until they graduated from high school.

Another active choir was a Boys' Choir, directed by Mrs. W. T. O'Brien with Mrs. Ross Bonar as accompanist.

When Mrs. Manser moved to Maryland in 1959, Dr. Bobby H. Loftis, chairman of the music department at Wesleyan College, assumed the directorship of the Senior Choir. In 1964, he took a leave of absence to study and receive his doctorate in music degree. During this year, Mrs. Irma Helen Collins, another member of

Wesleyan's music faculty, served as choir director. Dr. Loftis returned in 1965 and served as choir director until 1979 when James Knorr assumed the duties.

Through the years First Church has been indebted to Wesleyan faculty members and students who have been of great help with the church music program. Wesleyan students have sung solos, directed youth choirs, and participated as members of the Senior Choir.

For several years there were two church services in the morning to accommodate the large numbers of students from Wesleyan. After Wesley Chapel was constructed on campus and the college instituted its own Sunday morning worship service there was no need for an early service. The students had a choir on campus and sang for various First Church special services.

Mrs. Hamner says that the church organ has been rebuilt and has had extensive repairs since it was built and installed in the new First Church in 1910. Mrs. Oliver (Grace) Cox helped financially with the repair and maintenance of the organ for these many years. Mrs. Cox regularly contributed to the church of her girlhood.

Mrs. Cox resided for many years in Washington, D. C. and later in The Hermitage in Alexandria, Va. where she died in 1979. She was born in the same year as West Virginia Wesleyan College (1890). She was a graduate of Wesleyan and her father was the Rev. Silas D. Tamblyn, onetime pastor of First Church. Her mother was a granddaughter of Abraham Carper in whose home a Methodist Society was began in 1800, the beginning for this congregation. His home was located in dense forest on the site of Wesleyan's present campus. From this land were taken logs for Carper Church, built in 1820 on a site between Kanawha Street and a hill a little west of the College Avenue corner. Mrs. Cox cared deeply for her roots and provided generous and regular gifts to nourish the life of her home church.

The latest contribution to church worship is the Hand Bell Choir, conceived and established by Mrs. James Knorr who also directs this choir. Each bell is a memorial gift. The name of the donor and the one honored is on the handle of each bell. It has added much to the music of the church.

In June, 1960, Rev. Harford and family moved to Parkersburg.



F. ROSSING SMITH
1960-1965

The congregation was continuing to grow when Rev. F. Rossing Smith assumed the pastorate of First Church. His first Sunday morning in the pulpit was the same week that Wesleyan students were beginning their fall session.

With the arrival of Rev. Smith, the official board authorized expenditure of funds not to exceed \$1,000 for secretarial help for the pastor during the ensuing year.

Herbert P. Stalnaker, who had served as secretary of the official board for 30 years, resigned. Mrs. Helen Fleming, widow of Dr. Wallace B. Fleming, well-known president of Wesleyan, assumed the position and James I. Ling was elected vice chairman of the board.

One of Rev. Smith's first actions was the approval of the Faith in Action program adopted by the West Virginia Conference to raise \$2,500,000. The drive was scheduled for Oct. 13-22. Dr. Myron B. Hymes, Jr. was named general chairman and the local goal was \$17,000.

Rev. Smith also asked the board to consider two Sunday morning services as 666 were present on one Sunday, far more than could be efficiently seated. Subsequently, two services were planned for each Sunday in October, one at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 10:45 a.m.

In June, 1960, 18 ministerial and lay delegates represented the West Virginia Methodist Conference at the quadrennial session of

the Northeastern Conference of the Methodist Church in Washington, D. C. The committee's recommendations included the separation of the West Virginia Conference from the Pittsburgh Area Conference and the implementation of the West Virginia (Episcopal) Area, with its own resident bishop.

Representing Buckhannon First Church at the conference were Dr. J. E. Hanifan, district superintendent, and Dr. Stanley H. Martin, Wesleyan College president. Previous to this conference, a special committee on boundaries had conducted a study for eight years concerning the separation of the West Virginia Conference from the Pittsburgh area and the acquisition of its own resident bishop.

On June 24, 1960, the first bishop of the West Virginia area was consecrated at a session of the church's 12-state Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Washington. He was the Rev. Dr. Fred G. Holloway, 62, president of Drew University for 12 years. West Virginia had been established as a separate Episcopal area of the church with a 200,000 membership.

An indication of the growth of First Church and the varied activities which occupied the board are evident in the minutes of 1961. The minutes speak of the need for a piano and film strip projector for the Sunday School, new equipment for two rooms for the nursery and kindergarten, the recommendation that two additional girls be paid \$2.00 each to care for children during Sunday morning services, 29 children in the membership class which meant that two classes had to be formed, an attendance of 85 women at the general WSCS meeting, Robert Tetrick reporting on the Scout program mentioning in particular the Cub program where there were seven dens with 50 boys involved, the increased number of young people to conferences during the year, increased interest in the Methodist Men's organization, and a concerted effort to visit inactive and shut-in members of the church as well as prospective members.

In February, 1961, Leslie Miles called attention to the fact that the present church building was dedicated May 28, 1911. He suggested that the congregation observe this 50th anniversary on May 28, 1961. Conard St. Clair was appointed chairman of the planning committee.

Another indication of growth in the church is the acquisition of several pieces of real estate, conveyed to the trustees, as described by Myron B. Hymes, Sr., longtime chairman of the finance committee.

Between 1961 and 1966 the following deeds were recorded in the Upshur County courthouse:

1. Deed dated Oct. 28, 1961, made by Homer Reed and Cosbie Crites Hamrick to B. F. Whitescarver and others, trustees, a house

and lot on Meade Street. The old house was burned down under the supervision of the Buckhannon Volunteer Fire Department.

2. Deed dated March 1, 1963, made by Esther L. Watson and others, to B. F. Whitescarver and others, trustees, a house and lot on Meade Street adjoining the property formerly owned by Homer Reed and Cosbie Crites Hamrick.

3. Deed dated Feb. 21, 1963, made by Mayme Griffin Shannon, widow, to B. F. Whitescarver, and others, trustees, a lot 60 feet by 30 feet between Meade Street and Florida Street.

4. Deed dated July 24, 1963, made by Lillian Fogel, single, to B. F. Whitescarver and others, trustees, a lot 30 feet by 66 feet with a house thereon in the rear of the church property.

5. Deed dated May 19, 1966, made by Isa B. Smith, unmarried, to Herbert P. Stalnaker and others, trustees, deed of record in Tyler County conveyed all of the grantor's right, title and interest in and to any and all oil and gas and other minerals or royalty interests, in Tyler County, which were owned by W. G. Smith and/or Mrs. S. J. Smith, her mother and father, at the time of their deaths, and which were either inherited by her from their estates or which were devised to her by their last will and testament.

In 1962, the official board approved the employment of an associate minister, the Rev. Ronald McCauley at a salary of \$4,000 plus housing.

Myron B. Hymes, Sr. was honored as the District Layman-of-the-Year, and in May 1962 retired from the church finance committee after 28 years of service.

In June, the new board officers were Leslie Miles, chairman; James I. Ling, vice chairman; Mrs. Stanley H. Martin, secretary; William A. Young, treasurer, and W. C. Cade, financial secretary. At the same time, a new rotation plan for membership on the church board was presented. Trustees drew names of members of each of the three classes to expire June 1963, June 1964 and June 1965. It was revealed that after a member's term had expired he or she must remain off the board for one year and after that could be reelected.

The possibility of a new church school building was mentioned for the first time in the minutes of the official board on August 6, 1962. At that time, Thomas A. Clawson reported that negotiations were now in progress with the architectural firm of Griefe, Daley and Hoblitzell of Charleston for plans to submit to the building committee. It was also announced that Dr. Norman Parker would be at the church in September to organize the fund-raising campaign which would conclude in November.

According to files in connection with the construction of this building, now in the possession of Myron B. Hymes, the general contract for the educational building is dated March 6, 1964. J. T. Dyer was the contractor. A. G. Shannon Hardware Co. was

contractor for the plumbing, heating, ventilating and electrical work.



GROUNDBREAKING ceremonies for the new educational building were held in the rain which didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those participating. Left to right are Dr. J. C. Huffman, Cathy Corathers, Rev. Rossing Smith, Thomas Clawson, Rev. Ronald McCauley, David Reemsnyder, Kenneth O. Phillips and Earl Young.

The completion date for the contracts was November 2, 1964.

Total costs of construction of the Educational Building:

J. T. Dyer Contractor, Inc. \$102,412.50

A. G. Shannon Hardware 25,950.00

Total contract price \$128,362.50

By March, 1963, the building fund totaled \$103,250.10 and the WSCS with a membership of 76 members pledged \$10,000. Rev. Smith reported that there were 1,076 members in the church.

In the midst of all this building activity, Rev. Smith received word that he was appointed as one of 32 ministers in the United States selected to participate in an Evangelistic Mission in Brazil for one month. The congregation raised \$1,102.40 for his expenses.

In April, 1963, the pastors' salaries were increased to \$7,800 for Rev. Smith and to \$4,500 for Rev. McCauley.

Mrs. S. O. Phillips completed four years as president of the Buckhannon District of WSCS and David Reemsnyder was elected chairman of the official board. In 1964, Mrs. W. B. Fleming attended

her last board meeting after a membership of 24 years.

It appeared that the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren conferences was imminent.

In 1964, the official board elected David Reemsnyder as president; Dwight Mikkleson, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Shattuck, secretary, and upon the resignation of William A. Young, Willard W. Wimer accepted the position of treasurer. Rev. Ron McCauley resigned in June 1964 and the Rev. Joseph Kidd was welcomed as new associate minister.

Rev. Smith noted that the year of 1964 was a historic year in the life of the First Methodist Church. Quoting from his report: "We have shared the excitement and joy of constructing and moving into a new educational building. This congregation has every reason to be proud of its achievements and the beauty of this new building. The hundreds of children and their parents who will come through these doors for the next 75 years will reap the fruits of your labors, and will thank God for the contribution you have made to their welfare."

Continuing his report, Rev. Smith stated: "The educational program of the Church under the direction of our Commission on Education, and the wise leadership of our superintendent, Raymond Kiser, is properly organized and blessed with an excellent staff. The new curriculum material has inspired and assisted our teachers to do a more thorough job in Christian education.

"To meet the need for a more academic study of the Bible, we organized a new Bible Class with Dr. Ralph C. Brown as teacher. Believing that a rediscovery of the Bible is essential to Church renewal, we feel that a more widespread study of the scriptures must undergird the life of this Church.

"The true measure of the effectiveness of a local Church is the extent of its outreach. Its willingness to serve beyond its local interests. A church that is concerned about itself first, will die, no matter how beautifully we maintain our buildings.

"The First Methodist Church ranked 24th in the conference in its missionary outreach last year. Our World Service apportionment was increased approximately \$1,000 this year, making a total of \$3,862. This amount was accepted in full, one half of which has been paid. The Woman's Society of Christian Service has contributed \$2,085 for their missionary work, plus \$50 for the Dorothy Lee Fund, and \$60 for the Crusade Scholarships. Our Advance Specials total \$602 which brings our total missionary giving to \$6,659.

"The outreach of the church includes also the Builder's Club which is a church extension program. Thirty-two of our members pledged a total of \$585 per year toward this project."

Suggesting that an area which needs greater attention--that of stewardship--Rev. Smith charged the Commission on Finance to

give its Christian attention to the real task of stewardship of money, of time and of life. He reported "stewardship is not a few businessmen getting together to see how cheaply we can operate a church which has more than a half-million dollars in assets and nearly 1,200 persons. We need a vital long-range program of cultivation, teaching, which leads to full commitment to tithing as the real standard of Christian giving."

Touching on his ministerial services, Rev. Smith's 1964 report stated that he had performed 14 weddings and conducted 12 funerals. Beyond his own local services, he had preached in an evangelistic mission in Temple Church, Clarksburg, addressed the Hampton Community meeting, the Wesley Foundation at Glenville State College, the freshman class at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon-Upshur High School, a home economics class, and the Harrison County Christian Youth Rally at Jackson's Mill.

Additionally, he served on the World Service and Finance commission of the annual conference, co-chairman of the Conference Program Committee, the Area Information committee, chairman of the local entertainment committee for the conference, and participated in district ministerial meetings and served two years as chairman of the Buckhannon Ministerial Association.

(In later years, Rev. Smith stated that his greatest challenge to preaching was trying each week to prepare a sermon suitable for college faculty, college students, local residents and children.)

Looking to the future, Rev. Smith called upon every member of First Church to receive these "our Christian brothers and sisters in the spirit of Christ" as plans were being developed for the merger of Simpson Methodist Church with First Methodist Church.

He concluded that report of 1964 with the following recommendation: "That this Quarterly Conference approve the merger of Simpson Methodist with First Methodist Church and that a committee consisting of the chairman of the official board, the president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the lay leader, and the pastor, be requested to meet with such a committee in Simpson church, for the purpose of drawing up the plan of Union, which will be presented to both congregations for a vote in April 1965."

Accordingly, the Quarterly Conference gave its unanimous approval to the merger at a March 10, 1965 meeting with Frank L. Shaffer, Sr., district superintendent, presiding, and Robert J. Wallace, a local attorney, as secretary.

Legal proceedings for such a merger were not that easy. According to Myron B. Hymes, Sr., Buckhannon attorney, the title work was completed for some time on the Simpson Methodist Church property prior to the conference vote. But, the legal problems involved in the merger and transfer of the title to the

trustees of the First Methodist Church gave him some concern and he conferred with Bishop Fred G. Holloway and the district superintendent, Frank L. Shaffer, Sr.

Bishop Holloway referred to the Methodist Discipline which reads:

"When two or more local churches are united, merged, or consolidated, the Quarterly Conference of the constituent churches shall respectively take action to consummate legally the same, and direct the respective Boards of Trustees with respect to the transfer or disposition of the property, real and personal, as the local laws and the Discipline may require."

It was then necessary that the Quarterly Conference within whose jurisdiction the Simpson Methodist Church was located, to have a meeting and pass a resolution authorizing the Trustees of that conference to convey the title to the property to the trustees of the First Methodist Church.

After extensive correspondence with Rev. Ramsey Bridges, then superintendent of the Methodist Church, Charleston District, of which Bishop John Wesley Lord, was president, it was learned that upon examination of the records of the First and Fourth Quarterly Conferences which Rev. Bridges retained after the dissolution of the Washington Annual Conference and the Charleston District, he found that the pastor of Trinity-Clarksburg who served the Buckhannon church, did not present a quarterly conference roll and attendance record for the Simpson Church.

Rev. Bridges recommended that Charles Atkins and Miss Margaret Jeffers, who were the key persons of Simpson Church when the merger was first suggested, be charged with special responsibilities for the transference of the Simpson Church property. "As special trustees appointed for this purpose, they can do the task without fear of later complications," Rev. Bridges wrote.

On April 25, 1965 the second merger of a White and Negro Methodist Church in the West Virginia Conference took place during Sunday morning worship services. The chairman of the board of trustees of Simpson Church, Charles Atkins, presented the deeds of the church building and parsonage to the chairman of the board of trustees of First Methodist Church, Herbert P. Stalnaker.

This action was in line with the merging of the West Virginia Conference of the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the Washington Conference of the Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church.

Simpson Methodist Church, founded in 1888 in Buckhannon, brought a membership of 11 into the 1,100 membership of First Methodist. Those new members were Mrs. Harriet Warfield, Mrs. Florence Elkins, Miss Margaret Jeffers, Mrs. Maggie Jeffers, Mrs. Margie Carter, Frances Carter and Leroy Jarvis, Jr. The Rev. Frank Horton, Simpson minister, returned to seminary.



ALTER BOYS--Steven Carter, at left, and Timothy Welliver pose with Rev. Rossing Smith symbolizing the merger of Simpson Church with First Methodist Church.

At the time of the merger, Simpson Methodist Church was the owner of three lots of land on Locust and Chancery Streets in the City of Buckhannon. In 1970, the trustees of the First United Methodist Church conveyed the property to the County Court of Upshur County for \$20,000. The money was set aside as an endowment fund with no part of the principal to be used, and the interest to be used for maintenance of the church building. This fund is known and designated as Simpson Methodist Church Memorial Fund.

When Rev. Smith left Buckhannon he was assigned to the Lewisburg District as superintendent. From there he was sent to Charleston as pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church and then to the superintendency of the Parkersburg District. In 1980, he is in his fifth year as Director of the Conference Council on Ministries in Charleston and was elected a trustee at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

The Smith's older son, Roger, is the pastor of Cross Roads United Methodist Church in Huntington. He is married to Marilyn Lipphardt and they are the parents of two children, Jody and Brian.

Another son, Rick, and his wife, Grace, live in Morristown, Tenn. where Rick is professor of music at Morristown College and minister of music at the First Presbyterian Church. Rick is completing work on his master's degree in music at the University of Tennessee.



CHARLES F. GODWIN
1965-77

At a reception honoring the arrival of the Rev. Charles F. Godwin family, eight-year-old Greg informed Mrs. Conard St. Clair that they (the Godwin family) would not be staying long. Young Greg was not very prophetic . . . the Godwin family stayed in Buckhannon for 12 years, the longest tenure of any minister.

The Rev. Thomas McKelvey was hired as assistant to Rev. Godwin replacing Rev. Joseph Kidd.

The June board meeting records an election of officers as follows: David Reemsnyder, chairman; Dwight Mikkelson, vice chairman; Robert Craig, secretary, and Willard Wimer, treasurer.

The first six months proved to be an indication as to how busy Rev. Godwin would be in the next 12 years, how finances would involve the pastorate and the congregation, and how a new focus in ministry would develop over the next few years.

In 1965, First Church was still the setting for the college church as well as the local congregation. The role of the ministry still focused on the college students. The staff spent most of its time with students and campus concerns. The early church service in those days was made necessary by the number of Wesleyan students participating. A college choir was part of the worship service. At the time, Rev. Godwin was ministering to hundreds of students in addition to the needs of the local community.

With completion of the multi-million dollar Wesley Chapel in 1967 as the focal point on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College, and with the advent of morning worship services in the chapel for the campus community, the emphasis on college students underwent a radical change. Many adults related to the college had responsibilities and loyalties to the campus which decreased participation and attendance at First Church.

Clearly, a new direction had to be taken from the standpoint of the local ministry. A new assessment of the needs of the local community was undertaken and as a result such ministries as the kindergarten or early childhood development program grew out of this responsibility. Additionally, First Church became the sponsoring agency and meeting place for numerous community groups such as extension training, Alcoholics Anonymous, American Association of Retired Persons, parent training, etc. First Church, its ministers, and the official board came through these transitions stronger than ever as a vital part of community life.

With the growth and development of the church property as a community center for various organizations both in and out of the church-related program, the new educational building was being used more and more. The building had been in use just about six months when Rev. Godwin arrived. The major part of the cost was still owed and in six months he was involved in a fund-raising campaign to liquidate the church debts. This was the first of three major fund drives in his tenure as minister which would result in approximately \$300,000 in capital funds.

In April of 1966, Kenneth O. Phillips reported that pledges received during the building fund campaign totaled \$79,933.35.

Amid the fund campaign it was learned that a member of the congregation, Miss Isa Smith, had deeded her property on Meade Street and her interests in oil and gas in Tyler County to First Church. Rev. McKelvey returned to school and a new assistant minister, Harry Jenkins, was appointed. It was suggested that since the church had become heir to the Smith property that consideration be given to renovating the property as a home for the assistant minister.

Before such action could be taken, it was learned that Mrs. Lillian S. Chamberlain, a widow of a former Methodist minister, who owned and resided in a cottage next door to the parsonage on Latham Street, intended at some future date to deed her property to First Church. As a result, the Smith residence on Meade Street was razed and the lot retained and sold in 1968 for \$6,500. In July of 1969, Mrs. Chamberlain deeded her property to the trustees and eventually the cottage did become the home for all future associate ministers.

During the summer of 1966, Mrs. Martha Jane Phillips, director of the Upshur County Program on Remedial Reading, appeared before the board and outlined activities of the program which benefits the elementary and junior high students who have reading problems. She requested the use of six rooms in the Educational Building and two in the basement of the principal church building to carry on this work through a federally funded program. Mrs. Phillips proposed to pay monthly rental of \$300 for nine months, for five days a week for 450 students, and to furnish her own janitor service and pay for the additional utilities used. The board approved the request after a secret ballot.

The idea of a church kindergarten was discussed in November of 1967 and at that time was referred to a committee for study. At the beginning of 1968, Miss Helen Stealey, kindergarten teacher at Wesleyan, appeared before the board members as a resource person to discuss the proposed church kindergarten. She suggested a fee of \$20 per month for each child, and predicted that the kindergarten would be self-supporting after the first year.

Plans moved rapidly and in July, Patton Nickell, Jr. presented a final proposal and budget for the church-sponsored kindergarten. Mrs. Donald Phillips was employed as teacher for the 19 youngsters enrolled. In less than a year Mrs. Phillips moved from the community and Miss Alta Ice was employed as teacher, a position she held for the next four years.

Miss Ice was assisted at various times by Mrs. Robert Sessions and Miss Margaret Farnsworth. Later, the church kindergarten was a training ground for Wesleyan College students majoring in early childhood education.

Miss Ice recalls the many parties financed by the United Methodist Women as highlights during the school year, along with participation in the annual Strawberry Festival parade--when children rode layers of strawberry cakes without moving a muscle and "dressed as dolls." The children also annually toured St. Joseph's Hospital where they donned doctor and nurses caps.

Miss Ice still retains the recorded tapes she made of youngsters to assist her in tracking speech patterns. One particularly amusing tape to Miss Ice is that of Jeffery Craig, who when it came his turn to record, changed into the character of "Edith Ann," the five-year-old that Lily Tomlyn portrayed so graphically during those years of television. His rendition took a full 20 minutes of tape recording.

One pre-school youngster found out for the first time that he was black. He was in the dressup area of the church and looked into the mirror. He came running to Miss Ice and said, "Miss Ice, am I black like it shows here?" Miss Ice replied, "Yes, God wanted you black, so He made you black." Then she pointed out flower colors, bird

colors, house colors, dog and cat colors, and said, "You are special . . . the only little black boy we have."

The church kindergarten continued until 1972 when the Upshur County Board of Education requested the use of church facilities for a public kindergarten at \$50 per month rent.

As a matter of record, the first monthly church newspaper, which we know today as **The Link**, was started in February 1967 by the committee on education. The board minutes note appreciation to Saul Fisher who mailed bulletins each week to shut-ins and provided postage for the mailing. Saul is continuing this service at the present time (1980).

Without fanfare, without prior mention whatsoever, and with one brief, terse statement, the board minutes of March 3, 1969 record "We are now the United Methodist Church."

This momentous event in the history of the church--the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist conferences--the most significant merger since 1940 when the three Methodist denominations united is not mentioned anywhere in the official minutes of First Church until that one brief statement of March 3.

This is surprising because it was several years in development and involved history-making changes in several phases of church life. It also meant that there were now three Methodist churches located on South Florida Street--Evangelical United Brethren Church, which assumed the name of **Evangel United Methodist Church** and later joined with the **Central Methodist Church** to form Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in 1976, and **First Methodist Church** now designated First United Methodist Church. A move to merge these three congregations into one never developed.

The 1967 session of the West Virginia Annual Conference held on the campus of Wesleyan College adopted a resolution authorizing a committee on "matters of Methodist-Evangelical United Brethren union." The directive given to this committee was to "confer with the committee of the Evangelical United Brethren Conference, seeking to facilitate the merger, should such a merger be approved."

This committee held a joint meeting with the EUB committee on Dec. 5, 1967 with Bishop Fred G. Holloway and Bishop J. Gordon Howard serving as co-chairmen. The first item of business was to recommend a target date for the union of the two conferences--the Annual Conference session of 1969.

In the meantime, extensive consultations were held on every aspect of the work of the two church bodies--committee on ministry, future use of EvUnBreth Acres and Spring Heights, special mission projects regarding Tyrand Parish, House of the Carpenter, Heart and Hand House, matters of pension and insurance, district boundaries, plans for charge boundaries, mergers, relocations and

abandonments.

In July, 1968, 1,200 delegates, guests and observers for the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church arrived on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College for a four-day session. Highlight of the conference was the election of 207 bishops and the assignments of nine others for the coming four years.

Host bishop, Fred G. Holloway, and Bishop Fred P. Corson, retired at the conclusion of the conference. The Northeastern Jurisdiction included 27 annual conferences with 7,976 former Methodist churches and 1,501 former EUB churches representing a total of 6,816 clergymen, 5,750 former Methodists and 1,056 former EUB.

The uniting service of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church and the former Methodist Church, was held in Wesley Chapel, West Virginia Wesleyan College, at 7:30 p.m. June 11, 1969 with Bishop D. Frederick Wertz presiding.

The official board of First United Methodist Church was now called the Administrative Board. In August 1973, the Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) became United Methodist Women. The conference year was changed to the calendar year.

Throughout the years of Rev. Godwin's ministry, he was involved in the acquisition and maintenance of buildings and grounds, as the needs of the congregation required a physical plant which in turn required money to operate.

During his tenure the mortgage on the new educational building was paid. The property to the rear of the church building was purchased and paved as a parking lot and this loan was paid off. The balconies in the sanctuary were declared unsafe, rebuilt and restored. Several rooms on the first and ground floors of the church building were remodeled. Radical changes, involving structural changes with steel, plumbing and wiring were made to the kitchen and in fellowship hall. All new, modern equipment was installed in the kitchen. A new roof was installed, the first roof since construction of the church in 1911. The walls of the church were cleaned, repainted and weathersealed. The top of the tower was removed after it became dangerous to pedestrians below.

Rev. Godwin awarded several Eagle Awards during this period as the Scouting program was emphasized and remained strong. The children's sermon was started, and the process of needs assessment, goal setting and long range planning was adopted and implemented.

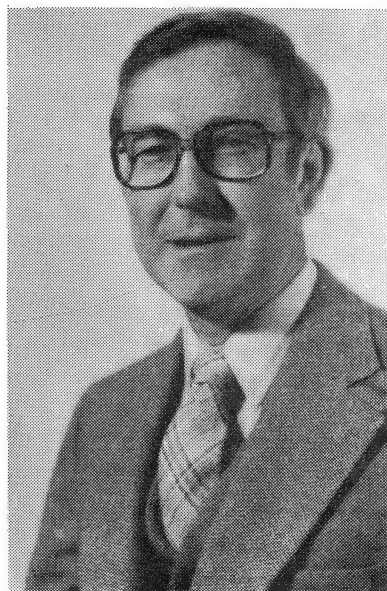
Rev. Godwin served as chairman of the Upshur County Citizens for Better Schools which helped plan for new educational facilities and was responsible for the passage of a school bond issue, the first

in history, and which resulted in a new modern high school physical plant.

He was involved in several crisis intervention incidents, one of which was a bizarre event. A woman come to the parsonage door one day to seek assistance. She was so disturbed she could not express her feelings and slumped against the door and finally on the porch steps. Rev. Godwin persistently urged her to tell her story, but she got up and ran to a nearby field where she lay down on a pile of brush. After a time, she ran from the area and Mrs. Godwin finally found her in a tree, threatening to jump. The police and fire departments were called and the area was soon surrounded by vehicles with flashing lights, people demanding her descent, ladders, nets and an audience of neighbors. Mrs. Lewis Emery finally talked her down with kind words and took her home. The local newspaper publisher, W. Herbert Welch, found humor in reporting on the minister's counseling techniques that "chased a woman up a tree."

In June of 1977, Charles Godwin was assigned to the Bland Street United Methodist Church in Bluefield. He left on a happy note for two bequests were received from church members--one from the estate of Myrtle Hall for \$9,924.99 and the other of \$1,924.99 from the Edna Loudin estate.

An update on the Godwin family finds Charles as pastor in Bluefield and his wife, Wilda, an employee of the First National Bank there. Their daughter, Sharon, is married to Robert Carr and they reside on the Kesling Mill Road in Upshur County with their four children. Robert is an employee of Union Drilling Co. Another son, Rodney, is married to the former Barbara Berisford, and they reside on Shawnee Drive with their daughter, Linda Nicole. Rod is pharmacist at St. Joseph's Hospital and Barbara is a teacher. The second son, David, is married to the former Jane Weimer, and they reside on Meade Street. He is a local attorney and Jane is a music teacher. John is married to the former Kim Phares and they reside in Rock Cave where John is foreman for Upshur Coals, Inc. and Kim is a teacher. Greg attends Wesleyan College after a stint with the U.S. Marine Corps and was elected recently as a member of the Upshur County Board of Education. The youngest son, Jeff, is a senior at the College of William and Mary.



HARRY P. LIGHT
1977-

Harry P. Light was appointed as minister of First United Methodist Church in June of 1977. He moved into the parsonage with his wife, Donna, a registered nurse, and their children, Trina, Randy, Shannon, Holly, and Dana.

In addition to his priorities of partnership with the college campus, evangelism, the strengthening of local churches, Rev. Light was soon asked to be supervisory pastor on the candidacy program which deals with all ages interested in the ordained ministry. Certified after extensive training at Cedar Lake, four members of First Church have entered the candidacy programs--Bruce Goldsmith, Katherine Almond, Friday Nwoku and Greg Godwin.

The church administration has grown to the extent that in January, 1979, full time secretarial service for the church was provided.

Another highlight has been the appointment of Heather Murray Elkins as associate minister, the first woman minister at First Church.

In March of 1980, Rev. Elkins was invited to give a special report to the National Division of the Board of Global Ministries in Detroit. This report was on behalf of Sarah Doucette, church and community worker and a member of First Church, who along with Heather was among the first seven women to design a program of outreach to women in crisis in Upshur County.



HEATHER ELKINS

The Home Crisis Aid Center had its original funding from the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church. The Center offers a 24-hour hotline service for those in situations which are beyond their control. Since its inception, there have been over 100 clients with requests ranging from abuse, rape, emergency shelter and depression. Public education, listening and referral, advocacy work are the main avenues of assistance.

Rev. Ross Linger has come full circle. Leaving First Church in 1949, he spent six years as district superintendent for Romney District. In June, 1955, Rev. Linger was assigned to the Bridgeport United Methodist Church where he served 14 years, retiring and moving to Buckhannon in 1970. Here he once again was in the pulpit as associate minister, a position he held until 1973 when he retired for the second time. In February, 1980, Ross Linger once again was asked to serve First Church, this time as minister of visitation for the homebound and those in nursing homes. He is currently serving his 56th year in the ministry.

In June 1979, Rev. Light was one of 14 West Virginia United Methodists sent to Belize City, Belize, Central America, to participate in an UMCOR work project at Wesley College, a school operated by the Methodist Conference of the Caribbean and the Americas. The work team renovated and painted the main building on the school grounds, repaired windows and shutters, replaced joists and support beams, fixed steps and painted. Several students helped the team members on repair efforts.

According to Rev. Light's report there was a sense of despair after the college was devastated by Hurricane Greta a year before the arrival of the work team. After one week of hard labor what remained of the buildings had been cleared up and temporarily repaired and 100 per cent of the students were present for continuation of classes in makeshift classrooms. "For me this was one of the most memorable two weeks of my life," Rev. Light states. "This region of Central America, formerly British Honduras and still a colony of England, has 145,000 friendly and gentle citizens. Poverty is everywhere, but so is good will, kindness and appreciation. Churches of many denominations, with government assistance, provide most of the schools. The churches are 'the leaven in the lump' which enables Belize to possess, with integrity, the label of 'Christian nation.'"he concludes.

First Church continues to contribute workers to the cause of mission work. In June 1980, the church sponsored Phil Petrosky for service in Dominica.

Also, the church has adopted a Faith-Promise program to provide substantial support for special mission programs.

The church campus continues to grow. In January of 1979, an improvement program was launched to provide a parking lot, to remodel the parsonage of the associate pastor, to remodel the parsonage kitchen, and to landscape the church grounds under the direction of John Gill.

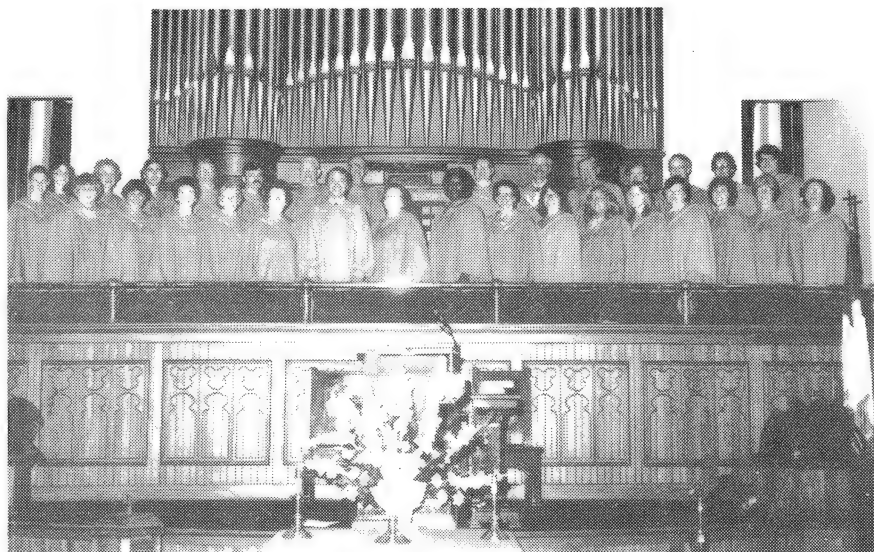
During the aforementioned landscaping program, Mr. Gill advised the removal of some maples from the front of the church on Latham Street. With pictures of the uprooted trees in the local newspaper and conflicting opinions everywhere regarding the decision to replace the maples, Dr. Robert Chamberlain and Lota Marie Wilfong presented special music for the worship service on Sunday morning. It was a duet that they had planned to use for weeks on this particular Sunday--Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees", with its conclusion "poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree."

Another era closed with the retirement of Mrs. Frances Hamner as organist, a position she held for 50 years. Dr. Bobby Loftis who had directed the choir for 20 years accepted her position of organist and James Knorr is the choir director.

Despite the burden of an ever expanding church campus, the financial support needed to maintain this campus, the substantial support of special mission programs, the administration in January 1980 has also budgeted its share of the Major Funds Drive (\$30,759) of the Annual Conference in support of pensions for the clergy, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and the Conference Educational Center at Spring Heights.



ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR--First row, left to right, Lynne Petrosky, Marilyn Teets, Cindi Myers and Cheryl Reger; second row, Beth Olson, director Phil Loftis, Steve Bright, Rich Ewing. Not pictured, Joanne Autry and Heather Elkins.



SENIOR CHOIR--First row, left to right, Jane Nickell, Bobbie Loftis, Margie Carr, Jane Crutchfield, Sally Chamberlain, Ruth Ross, Jim Knorr, director, Frances Lynch, Georgia Peoples, Martha Craig, Sydelle Curtis, Anne Craig, Cheryl Reger, Sarah Carr, Judy Knorr, Lota Marie Wilfong and Valta Canfield; second row, Barb Loftis, Grace Clawson, Rick Ewing, Vernon Bennett, Bill Hyman, Sid Davis, Perce Ross, Bobby Loftis, organist, Bob Chamberlain, Jim Ramsey, Steve Bright, Ben Crutchfield, Phil Petrosky and Phil Loftis. Not pictured, Tom Darnall, Sue Darnall, Inez Manser and Diane Kimble.

First United Methodist Church has grown from a small society meeting in a log house to a membership of 1,000 and a total annual budget of \$124,737 with unlimited opportunities for ministry to the community.



YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR--First row, left to right, Karen Richter, Beth Iden, Marsha Simmons, Beth Olson, Stephanie Presar, Gail Gum, and Judy Knorr, director; back row, Kari Parsons, Kris Parsons, Wes Nickell, Marvin Carr, Chris Loftis and C. J. Summers. Not pictured, Jamie Hansrote.



SACRED DANCE TROUPE--First row, left to right, director, Mrs. Sandra Presar, Stephanie Presar, Shawna McCormick, Laurie McCormick, Karen Richter and Kari Parsons; back row, Eunice Bryant, Stephanie Olson, Kris Parsons, Jane Nickell, Margie Carr and Kathy Welliver. Not pictured, Sarah Carr and Sara Halverson.



ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD-First row, left to right, Mrs. Don Williams, Susan Smith, Mrs. Harold Slaughter, Mrs. John Weimer, Mrs. Charles Wereley, Mrs. Phil Loftis, Rev. Heather Elkins and Mrs. Mayford Ours; second row, Mrs. Katherine Reemsnyder, Mrs. Juanita Post, James Ramsey, Mrs. Tony Gum, Mrs. Steven Wentz, Mrs. Gregory Hill, Mrs. James Click, Mrs. Ruth Taylor, Miss Frances Lynch and Mayford Ours; back row, Herbert Sharp, Charles Wereley, Dr. Ross Linger, Pat Nickell, Phil Petrosky, Dr. Rodger McCormick, Harold Slaughter, Phil Loftis, Brad Teets, Rev. Harry Light, Tracey Segur, Dean Ruhlow, William A. Young and Frank Berisford.



Mrs. Lena Travis and Mrs. Elnora Wereley holding plates from the first dishes bought for the new church at the corner of Florida and Latham Streets. They were among the members in the "march" from the old church on East Main Street to the present church site. The plates were used for the many dinners served to help pay for the new church building. The usual price for these dinners was 25 cents.

REMINISCENCES **by Elnora Ligget Wereley**

Our family, the T. J. Ligget family, started attending the First Methodist Episcopal Church in October, 1903. Dr. Frank S. Townsend was the pastor and Eugene Brown was Sunday School superintendent. Dr. Townsend and his wife had two children, Grace, who taught the boys' primary class, and Arthur.

The church was located on the corner of Main and Florida streets where the Buckhannon City Building stands today. The building was made of brick with the side next to Main Street being on the very edge of the sidewalk. The back end of the building was off the sidewalk on Florida Street to allow four or five steps up to an entryway or vestibule on each corner from Florida Street. There was a steeple with belfry on the Main and Florida corner.

Henry Powell, an elderly black man of the community, was janitor and one of his duties was to ring the church bell.

There was a door from each vestibule into the rear of the church and a middle aisle led to the altar rail in the front. Inside the altar was a step up to the pulpit.

There was a small, hand-pumped pipe organ which sat against the wall directly behind the pulpit and was used for church services. The choir sat on either side and behind the pastor. A piano was placed outside of the altar rail for Sunday School use and for other services.

A small room on either side of the pulpit was enclosed with glass for use of primary Sunday School classes, the little girls' classroom to the pastor's right as he faced the congregation, and the little boys' to his left.

The large bottom sash was raised for opening and closing exercises of Sunday School and to make more room for church services. There was also an outside door through the little boys' classroom but I don't remember anyone using that door except the pastor and his family.

A small balcony ran between the two vestibules in the rear of the church. One Sunday School class for adult women met up there and an older black woman, whom we called "Aunt Julia", usually sat at one end of the front seat in the balcony for church services. She did not attend Sunday School.

Aisles on either side of the church building ran next to the walls. Sunday School classes met in various parts of the church.

The parsonage was located on the East Main Street edge of the lot and faced Main Street. It was constructed of wood, weatherboarding on the outside and is the building which is now located directly across Main Street from the present city building. It was moved across the street and turned around when the church property was sold to the U. S. Government for a post office building. The former parsonage was used for a dwelling for many years but today houses various business establishments.

In 1903, Sunday School convened at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning with services and preaching at 10:30 a.m., Junior League at 2:30 p.m. and Epworth League at 6:30 p.m., followed by evening services with preaching at 7:30 p.m. every Sunday and prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings.

Since we lived on the Weston Road, near where the State Road Buildings stand today, we never did attend Junior League and never very regularly attended Epworth League and evening services, but Mother and one or two of us girls attended prayer meetings rather often. My two younger sisters, Vivian and Luanna, and I became members of the church on probation with a class in the spring of 1906. After serving six months on probation, as was necessary at that time, we were taken into full membership in the church in the fall of 1906.

Dr. Townsend served as pastor until the fall of 1907 when Dr. Hyre D. Clark was appointed as a new minister. His family consisted of his wife and three teenage children, Howard, Lois and Josephine.

It appears that soon after Dr. Clark came as pastor, he and the

official board began to plan a new church location. At that time most West Virginia Wesleyan College students attended First Methodist Church and as I remember, one reason for moving the church was to make it more convenient to the college. Since we lived on the Weston Road we were not too pleased with the move as practically everyone walked to church at that time.

The cornerstone for the new location at the corner of Latham and South Florida Streets was laid in 1910, and the construction completed in 1911 with dedicatory services. The first Sunday that the new church was ready for occupancy, most of the Sunday School classes met in regular session at the old building and marched by classes out of the old church, up Florida Street, into the new church and into the new classrooms. The new building seemed so spacious that many of us felt as if we might get lost but we soon learned our way around.

Our new classroom was upstairs over the pastor's study, and the men's Bible class met in his study. There were folding doors to each of these rooms to open for the opening and closing exercises for Sunday School which were conducted in what is now known as the overflow room. The Women's Bible Class is the only class that has always used the same room. As well as I remember, the beginners' and primary classes always met in the basement. The boys and girls above primary grades met in the little rooms in the rear of the overflow rooms, the boys downstairs and the girls upstairs with the younger ones in the room nearest the parsonage.

The class which had met in the balcony of the old church building met in the room over Fleming Lounge and the classroom that did not open into the overflow room assembled there and returned for the opening and closing exercises.

I don't remember when the Wesleyan students came, probably in the fall, but I became a member of the College Girl's Class and we met in the tower room which is now used by the choir.

For many years the pastor's study was in the room between the parsonage and the front entrance of the church. "Aunt Julia" found her a place just inside the rear door of the balcony, toward the parsonage. Henry Powell attended services the same as ever, although I believe he was never the janitor after the move to the new location.

The new organ appeared so immense and the church building itself so large, but it did not take very long to get adjusted to the new surroundings. The Ladies Aid had been organized and they soon became very much a part of the dining room service which served many meals to earn a little more money for the church. The new dishes purchased for serving these meals were paid for by a succession of meals for the public. The cost of each ticket was 25 cents.



SENIOR UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP--Front row, left to right, Peter Warner, Heather Elmore, Karen Richter, Stephanie Olson, Tom Elmore, Maria Largueza, Jerold Villamor, Jamie Hansrote and Dr. John Warner; back row, Mrs. Barbara Olson, Chris Bryant, Marvin Carr, Jeb Burgess, Stephen Warner, Robert Coston and Wes Nickell.



JUNIOR UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP--Seated, Left to right, Rebecca Carr, Susan Crutchfield and Lisa Hoover; standing, Randall O'Neal, Craig Presar, Andy Batten, Rod Nease, Kirk Parsons and Chris Loftis.



JUNIOR CHOIR--Left to right, Linda Hoover, Jennifer Warner, Martha McGraw, Jennifer Presar, Chris Knorr, Shawna McCormick, Jeff Olson, Laurie McCormick and Jill Hanson.



SUNDAY SCHOOL--Nursery and First Grade--First row, left to right, David Wiest, Jerry Nease, Matthew Lee, Elizabeth Hager, Daniel Elkins, Lori Cochran, Matthew Haas, Holly Myers, Sally Jo Hager, Maria Almond, Ronceverte Almond, Daniel Wentz and Anitra Wilson. Second row, David Wentz, Andrew Burton, Jennifer Cochran, Molly Riffle, Mindi Green, Jay Whitehair, Mandy Weaver, Derek Wentz and Bobby Farley.



SUNDAY SCHOOL--Second through Sixth Grade--First row, left to right, Tina Nease, Annamary Burton, Lisa Mathias, Clint Green, Nicole Wilson, Danny Wilson, Todd Peoples, John Weaver, Cheri Knorr, Lisa Calef and Scott Peoples; middle row, Donnie Wiest, Mark Harper, Shauna McCormick, Laurie McCormick, Rachel Crutchfield, Jennifer Warner, Jennifer Presar, Theresa Wilson, Alicia Summers, Johanna Haas and Chris Knorr; back row, Mrs. Donna Light, Rodger McCormick and Diane Hill.

YOUTH WORK by Mrs. Roger [Gaye] Nease

On Oct. 6, 1947, Miss Barbara Sommerville was employed as Youth Director at a salary of \$150 annually. It seems that First Church has employed a youth director almost continuously since that date.

In 1948, average attendance in the youth department of Sunday School was 15. Evening attendance for Methodist Youth Fellowship was 22, although there were 55 on the MYF roll.

In October of 1947, the high school boys' Sunday School Class donated two new collection plates. I gather from this information that the boys and girls met separately but I can find no dates when a merger occurred.

Since 1949, the church has paid half of fee for camps and conferences for young people. In turn, the youth worked and earned \$200 to equip the kitchen in the new Educational Building. Many times throughout the years, the youth painted and decorated their rooms, first in the church basement and today in the Educational Building.

A Youth Council was formed in January, 1973. That year the name was changed from Methodist Youth Fellowship to United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF). The responsibilities of the Youth Council included:

1. Election of youth to serve on the committee of Work Area of Education.
2. Survey the total youth program to see if all the needs of youths are being met and avoid duplication of activities.
3. Plan for youth advancement from one department and/or age group to another.
4. Plan division wide activities for all youth of the church, ages 12-24. It is the intent of the Youth Council to give direction, coordination and counsel to each organization. It is not a policy making body but one which may outline and initiate policy changes in the church.

An integral part of the church and its administration, youth throughout the years have been very active participating in retreats, hay rides, cook outs, mystery dinners, swimming parties, visitation of shut-ins, pancake suppers, dinners, collection for UNICEF, pizza parties, skating parties, Fathers and Mothers Day breakfasts, Hanging of the Green, Agape meals, trips to Washington, D. C., Bluefield, Honey in the Rock, Dolly Sods, Seneca Rocks, etc. There is no record of when the youth began participating in the Adopt-A-Family program but dates do begin to show up in November 1973.

A Sacred Dance group was organized in January 1975 under the supervision of Mrs. Sandra Presar and Marlene Anderson. The group is open to those in grades six through twelve.

Church youths have been involved with the Booth Festival for many years. In 1975, youth for the first time supported the Burlington Home for Children with a Rock-a-Thon.

A typical fall season included such varied programs as the study of Christian Music in the 1970's, discussion of "What I Believe," the study of worship services and why they are arranged as such in our church, and Church Olympic games on the church parking lot in sports as basketball, volleyball and frisbee golf.

Interest activities are offered in the education building following the children's moments in the church service each Sunday. Youth in grades three through six may participate in singing, creative movement, handbells, dramatizing Bible stories or crafts.

It is the intent of church school classes, choirs, sacred dance group, Scouts, and youth-fellowship to teach each individual that he has a place in the world, and his life relates to Bible teachings and to God's plan for each person.

TROOP 128 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

By Charles L. Wereley

Boy Scout Troop 128 has been sponsored by the First United Methodist Church since 1936 and is considered an active part of the church youth program.

This troop was originally chartered in 1917 and has been active in the community of Buckhannon since that time. It is not known who the early sponsors of the troop were but until sponsorship was taken over by the First United Methodist Church it is known to have been sponsored by the Buckhannon Rotary Club, Frank B. Bartlett Post of the American Legion, and a citizens' group of Buckhannon.

Troop 128 is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, troop in the Central West Virginia Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

While the Boy Scouts of America is not a religious organization, emphasis is placed on church attendance and participation. The God and Country Award is designed so that a boy may receive this award based upon the particular religion to which he belongs. It is a longtime custom of Troop 128 that when an outing is held which prevents the boys from attending Sunday morning church services a vesper service is held with the boys participating in this service.

Many local adults have expressed appreciation for the opportunity they were afforded for participation in Troop 128. National statistics show that the crime rate of persons who have been Scouts is much below the average.

Appreciation is expressed to the following persons who have furnished leadership in Troop 128 over the years:

SCOUTMASTERS Troop 128

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ernest Phillips 1917 | Edwin F. Filer 1955-59 |
| Myron Hymes 1918-19 | E. Quentin Miles 1960 |
| Edward C. Wereley 1923-30 | Patton L. Nickell, Jr. 1960-63 |
| Ben L. Beall 1931-34 | Kester W. Elder 1964 |
| Roscoe Carder 1935 | Gail L. Zickefoose 1965 |
| Vernon Merrel 1936 | Lewis J. VanGilder 1965-66 |
| Webster Sill 1937-38 | Wayland P. Taylor 1967-68 |
| Dale Turner 1939 | J. Robert Losh 1969 |
| Maurice G. White 1940 | Wayland P. Taylor 1970 |
| Mr. Bright 1941 | C. Rodney Godwin 1970-71 |
| Mack Tenney 1942-44 | J. Robert Losh 1971-72 |
| R. E. Johnson 1945-48 | David E. Godwin 1972 |
| Lejeune Lewis 1950 | Charles L. Wereley 1972-77 |
| James M. Beer 1951-52 | Joe Andrick 1978-79 |
| James Myers 1953-54 | David Wolfe 1979- |

Assistant Scoutmasters

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Marble Zickefoose 1925-27 | Frank D. Berisford 1958 |
| Maurice G. White 1928-29 | S. A. Harford 1958 |
| David A. White 1928-30 | Kester W. Elder 1959-62 |
| Okey Robey 1931 | Leon Rastle 1963 |
| Frank Thurston 1935 | Willard O. Baxa 1964 |
| John W. Guinn 1936 | Lewis VanGilder 1964 |
| Jackson M. Anderson 1936 | David R. Almond 1967 |
| Joseph R. Gilmore 1936 | Robert A. Been 1967 |
| William Viering 1936-37 | Bill Shissler 1967 |
| William Join 1938 | Tom Hastley 1967 |
| Viering Hassler 1938-39 | James R. Meck 1967-68 |
| Dwight Stewart 1940 | C. Rodney Godwin 1967-70 |
| Lejeune Lewis 1941-44 | John Best 1967-70 |
| Henry Gottfried 1942-45 | Jon C. Gulnac 1968 |
| Junior Hardman 1946-48 | George E. Locke 1968 |
| Robert E. Lindstedt 1947 | David E. Godwin 1969-71 |
| David Martin 1948-50 | Brian Shreve 1971 |
| William Phillips 1949 | John Page 1971-72 |
| Paige Quertinmont 1951 | John Godwin 1972 |
| Myron B. Hymes, Jr. 1951 | Donald Gasper 1973-79 |
| Charles West 1952 | David Gasper 1976-77 |
| Dale Andre BeVier 1952 | Craig Gasper 1976-78 |
| Robert B. Fullerton 1953 | Donald Berisford 1978- |
| William R. Hall 1957-59 | |

Institutional Representatives

Robert H. Reger 1947
Earl W. Young 1948-50
K. O. Phillips 1951-54
French W. Long 1955-56
R. M. Tetrick 1957-64
William Wimer 1965-66
Frank D. Berisford 1967-



25TH ANNIVERSARY WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE--Front row, left to right, Mrs. J. W. Glauner, Mrs. Rosa Hyre, Mrs. C. A. Snider, Miss Ona Frum, Mrs. W. J. Wilson, Mrs. I. A. Stalnaker, Mrs. John Hinkle, Mrs. Paul Flanagan and Mrs. H. C. Jett; back row, Mrs. Charles Lynch, Mrs. Merle Smith, Mrs. E. J. Reger, Mrs. Eleanor Williams, Mrs. E. R. Reger, Miss Maud Hathaway, Miss Daisy Leonard, Miss Minnie Arnett, Mrs. W. T. McWhorter, Mrs. T. M. Zumbrunnen, Miss Grace Matheney and Mrs. W. B. Fleming.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN--First row, left to right, Mrs. Jose Franquiz, Mrs. Osa Parkin, Mrs. Harry Light, Mrs. Robert Chamberlain, Mrs. Howard Bright, Mrs. Ramus Holtz, Mrs. Thomas Darnall, Mrs. Ronald Culp, Mrs. Herman Kinble, Mrs. Maxine Thacker, Mrs. Al Gemmill, Mrs. Charles Presar and Mrs. Sara Doucette; second row, Mrs. Bobby Loftis, Mrs. Pat Nickell, Mrs. D. L. Reynolds, Mrs. Clifton Martin, Harriett Warfield, Mrs. P. E. Chamberlain, Luana Ligget, Mrs. E. C. Wereley, Mrs. Lena Travis, Mrs. Robert Rexroad, Mrs. Thomas Weaver, Mrs. Allen Hamner, Mrs. Robert Hoover, Mrs. Harold Elmore, Mrs. Marvin Carr; third row, Mrs. Elmer Hupp, Mrs. David Reemsnyder, Mrs. William A. Young, Mrs. Winfield Patterson, Mrs. Theodore Martin, Mrs. Harold Almond, Mrs. James Knorr, Mrs. C. R. Simons, Mrs. Harold Potter, Mrs. William Manser, Mrs. Myron B. Hymes, Sr., Mrs. Perce J. Ross, Mrs. Percy Karickhoff, Mrs. Basil Burns, Mrs. Clifton Smith and Mrs. Clifford Summers; back row, Mrs. Freal Crites, Mrs. Conard St. Clair, Mrs. Don Taylor, Mrs. Thomas A. Clawson, Mrs. John Weimer, Mrs. Ralph Reed, Mrs. Walter Overstreet, Mrs. Mayford Ours, Florence Elkins, Frances Lynch, Mrs. O. E. Karickhoff, Mrs. Stanley Martin and Mrs. William Burke.

HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
AND THE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
By Mrs. T. F. [Mabel] Weaver

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of the First United Methodist Church was organized on Thursday, Sept. 12, 1940 at 2 p.m. in the church when 79 women met and signed the charter. The minister, Dr. B. T. Trevey, presided and Mrs. W. B. Fleming was elected president of the organization.

The Charter was left open until Oct. 15, 1941 and 97 other women had signed by that time for a total of 176 members. In the history of the first 25 years, written by Mrs. W. B. Fleming for the 25th anniversary of the WSCS, she says the first yearbook was printed in 1943 and details other information about the early work. This history was printed in the 1965-66 yearbook.

The new charter in 1941 was the beginning of a strong church organization, gained by uniting the Ladies Aid and the Woman's Missionary Society. In the First Church, the three missionary societies--namely, The Woman's Home Missionary Society, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and The Isabella Thoburn Missionary Society--had merged into The Woman's Missionary Society in 1939. Rose Mace, a missionary society for teenage girls, was sponsored for a few years. These three groups played a large part in all three branches of Methodism. Although there was no national organization of the Ladies Aid, its importance was recognized everywhere according to **The Guide** issued for the new society. District superintendents gave the Ladies Aid credit for keeping many small churches together as members visited the sick, helped the needy, maintained parsonages and church buildings with money they raised by serving the many turkey dinners and oyster suppers we remember with nostalgia.

The need was as great as ever and **The Guide**, issued by the National Division of Christian Service, was very comprehensive. Quoting the last paragraph, "To this end this organization shall enlist women, young people and children in this Christian fellowship: secure funds for the activities in the local church and support of the work undertaken at home and abroad."

The first pledge to missions was \$450, covering the work done by the former missionary societies and, of course, the local church needs were taken care of. It is interesting to note that the 1979 pledge to missions was \$2,650, allocated from a total budget of \$4,352. In 1965, the WSCS had increased membership to 340.

In the mid-60's, when the Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church was absorbed by the other Jurisdictions, we welcomed the women of Simpson Memorial Methodist Church as members.

October, 1968, when the General Conferences of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren voted to merge into the United Methodist Church, we held a memorable program entitled "Service of Celebration" with the women of Central Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren joining our members for the afternoon.

The Charter was signed and later taken to absent members and shut-ins to give them an opportunity to sign. During the meeting of the West Virginia Conference on June 13, 1969, the women from all over the state met at EvUnBreth Acres to consummate the union.

At the Division Conference in 1972 the name of this organization was changed to the United Methodist Women and a new constitution presented. In September, 1973, the name of our local group was changed to coincide and we adopted a new constitution written by a committee of our own women.

The united organization has gone forward in an even greater endeavor to supply the needs at home and abroad. We have followed the plans and programs developed under the direction of strong leadership in the General Society and in the Circles. For years, our work was depicted in the **World Outlook** and **The Methodist Woman**, now known as **The New World Outlook** and **Response**. We have a general meeting the first Thursday of each month and Circles meet the third Wednesday of each month except for July and August. The number of Circles vary but currently there are six with a total of 227 members.

Local projects have included needs of the parsonage, carpet for the sanctuary, help with the young people's projects, fellowship dinners, contributions to New Dawn Youth Center, and other community services. When plans were finally realized for an Educational Building, the WSCS had \$5,000 on hand which had been saved with this building in mind, so \$10,000 was pledged. With a project called "Operation Talent", interested persons paying for certain numbers of drapes as memorial gifts, and with other projects, the WSCS paid for 48 pairs of drapes at a cost of \$2,443.59. The completion of this project made the group aware of the need for new rings and drapes at the choir loft which were provided at a cost of \$325.99. The WSCS was finally able to help remodel the kitchen and diningroom into the lovely Fellowship Hall which we now enjoy, as well as helping with other renovations in the church building. Funds provided by the will of Miss Isa Smith were used to help remodel and equip the kitchen. As one project was completed another always seemed to present itself, and we raised another \$5,000 to help with extensive renovations which included a

new roof for the entire building, bracing of the balconies, and redecorating the sanctuary.

The WSCS has helped West Virginia Wesleyan College by furnishing a room in Jenkins Hall, cash gifts and aid to many students. "Take Home A Student Day" was sponsored when church members entertained students in their homes.

Members save trading stamps and coupons which are converted to money and used for Donella Johns Scholarships for our West Virginia girls who attend Wesleyan. The WSCS sends current religious publications to our students and service men who are away from home. "The Magic Closet" was a favored project as we collected and distributed clothing to needy school children. This was later taken over by Church Women United, a group of church women of all denominations in which we are active members. Later there was no need for the clothing when the government started allotting money for the needy. We maintain a good rapport with other groups from local churches and are presently helping deliver "Meals on Wheels."

In the World Service program we observe the "World Day of Prayer and Self Denial", continuing one of the projects listed in our early yearbooks by contributing to Crusade Scholarships.

The members helped with the relocation of a family from Rhodesia while the father was a student at Wesleyan. The members later helped this family in their move to another state while the father attends graduate school. Many foreign students have been helped and in return, the women have enjoyed the help and extra knowledge the students gave them. We are now collecting used postage stamps which are sold for money to "Stamp Out Hunger." Another of our first projects was a "Love Gift" sent to the annual state meeting of our society and this continues and is used to help missionaries on furlough. Another continuing project is the Dorothy Lee Scholarship Fund which is used to help foreign students attend Wesleyan. Over the years, the membership has given many special memberships to those women who have done outstanding work with the money helping missionaries.

It is impossible to list all of the projects and worthwhile activities during the past 39 years in which the membership has been involved but one of the most beneficial for each of us has been the studying and working together as women trying to benefit "Our World Christian Community."

Presidents of the Society have included Mrs. W. B. Fleming, Mrs. T. W. Hought, Mrs. Ralph C. Brown, Mrs. J. L. Gussler, Mrs. Newton Anderson, Mrs. W. S. Overstreet, Mrs. S. O. Phillips, Mrs. David Reemsnyder, Mrs. H. C. Jett, Mrs. William A. Young, Miss Nellie G. Wilson, Mrs. G. L. Glauner, Mrs. John Swarthout, Mrs. Roy Goff, Mrs. Lester Warner and Mrs. John Swarthout, who

served a second term. Mrs. David Reemsnyder is presently serving her second term.

Names of members listed in the 1943 yearbook and still on the 1979 membership roll are Mrs. V. B. Bail, Mrs. Ralph C. Brown, Mrs. W. C. Cade, Mrs. Glenn R. Dutton, Mrs. G. L. Glauner, Mrs. Charles Green, Mrs. Dewey Harris, Mrs. Myron B. Hymes, Sr., Mrs. O. E. Karickhoff, Mrs. Ross Linger, Mrs. Ralph Loudin, Mrs. W. C. Manser, Mrs. Clifton Martin, Mrs. William T. O'Brien, Mrs. Harold Potter, Mrs. David Reemsnyder, Mrs. Robert Reger, Mrs. Guy Ross, Mrs. A. A. Schoolcraft, Mrs. C. L. Simons, Mrs. H. P. Stalnaker, Mrs. David Watkins, Mrs. Thomas F. Weaver and Mrs. E. C. Wereley.

A few items will be of interest:

World Banks are given to each member in which we are asked to place a penny a day to go for missions. They are only folded paper and were originally called Mite Boxes by the missionary societies. During the time of the Woman's Society of Christian Service they were called Blessing Jars--using small glass jars--with the suggestion that members drop extra money into them when they had a special blessing or happy event. So, one wonders how many blessings have come to those who needed a mite.

During the early 1960's, we had a unique situation when three of our most beloved members were 100 years of age. They were Mrs. H. A. Darnell, Mrs. J. W. Glauner and Mrs. Harriett Ruble. They were close friends and attended meetings when able, with their lives an inspiration to all.

For many years one of our members, Mrs. H. C. Jett, was a missionary in China. Following World War II, after she was sent home again from China, she served as a missionary teacher at Scott's Run Settlement House in Osage. She resided in Buckhannon with her mother, Mrs. Harriet Ruble, and sister, Mrs. W. B. Fleming.

Two deaconesses were among our members for several years. Mrs. Paul Flanagan, retired with her husband, Rev. Flanagan, resided in Buckhannon. They were the parents of Mrs. Harold Almond. Miss Alta Ice, another deaconess, arrived in Buckhannon to work at Wesleyan and later started the church kindergarten which was in operation before public kindergartens became a part of all public school systems in West Virginia.

MEMBERSHIP OVER 60 YEARS

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Myron B. Hymes | 1915 |
| Perce J. Ross | 1915 |
| Mrs. Ed Wereley | 1905 |

MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN 50 AND 60 YEARS

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Edna Liddon | 1920 |
| Mrs. Pauline (Percy) Karickhoff | 1920 |
| Mrs. Lowell Hawkins | 1922 |
| Mrs. W. C. Manser (Inez) | 1922 |
| Mrs. Myron B. Hymes | 1923 |
| Mrs. Zenna Burke | 1924 |
| Mildred Fowler | 1924 |
| Eva Gould | 1924 |
| Charles Green | 1924 |
| Mrs. Allen T. Hamner | 1924 |
| Gertrude Marley | 1924 |
| Mrs. Fred Rusmisell | 1924 |
| Mrs. Lena Travis | 1924 |
| Elsie Young | 1924 |
| Kathryn Corder | 1925 |
| Mrs. (Carl) Helen Hoylman | 1925 |
| Carl F. Martin | 1925 |
| Madge Martin | 1925 |
| Mrs. Paul Mearns | 1925 |
| Carl Ramsey | 1925 |
| Mrs. George L. Glauner | 1926 |
| Mrs. Clarence Green | 1926 |
| Herbert Price | 1926 |
| Earl Young | 1926 |
| Nelia Zimmerman | 1926 |
| Mrs. A. K. Brake | 1926 |
| Mary Elizabeth Herndon | 1927 |
| Mrs. Harry Hymes | 1927 |
| Mrs. O. E. Karickhoff | 1927 |
| Robert H. Reger | 1927 |
| Mrs. C. L. Simons | 1927 |
| Neil B. Farnsworth | 1928 |
| Mrs. William Hood | 1928 |
| Elliot M. Karickhoff | 1928 |

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Robert Rundio | 1928 |
| Mrs. Robert Rundio | 1928 |
| Howard Reppert | 1928 |
| Vie Catherine Teter | 1928 |
| Mrs. Hazel R. Post | |

MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN 40 AND 50 YEARS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Allen T. Hamner | 1930 |
| Mrs. Kenneth Moore | 1930 |
| Mrs. Osie Martin | 1930 |
| Mrs. George Martin | |
| Lorna Cutright | |
| Allana Cutright | 1931 |
| Allen B. Cutright, Jr. | 1931 |
| Robert C. Bailey | 1931 |
| David Marple Cartwright | 1931 |
| Mrs. Edward Cartwright | 1931 |
| Mrs. (Kenneth) Jane Phillips | 1931 |
| Mary Rice | 1931 |
| Mrs. A. A. Schoolcraft | 1932 |
| Mrs. Clifford Perkins | 1933 |
| William B. Hicks, Jr. | 1934 |
| Mrs. Ralph Brown | 1934 |
| Mrs. Simon Carpenter | 1934 |
| Richard Young | 1934 |
| Saul Fisher | 1935 |
| Mrs. Dewey Harris | 1935 |
| Dr. Myron B. Hymes, Jr. | 1935 |
| Ernest Swearingen | 1935 |
| Mrs. Archie (Marthella Arnett) Young | 1935 |
| Quentin Miles | 1936 |
| Mrs. Thomas F. Weaver | 1936 |
| Mrs. Charles Fitzwater | 1937 |
| Mrs. Freal Crites | 1937 |
| Mrs. Madge VanGilder | 1937 |
| Mrs. George Clovis | 1937 |
| Mrs. William Knox | 1937 |
| Mrs. David Reemsnyder | 1937 |
| Mrs. Robert Reger | 1937 |
| Mrs. Don Bennett | 1938 |
| James H. Coleman | 1938 |

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|----------------------------|------|
| Mrs. James H. Coleman | 1938 |
| Yvonne Miller | 1938 |
| Dr. and Mrs. Basil Page | 1938 |
| Lota Marie Wilfong | 1938 |
| Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Huffman | 1939 |
| William C. Carper, III | 1939 |
| Thomas A. Darnall, Jr. | 1939 |
| William C. Fleming | 1939 |
| John Horton Glauner | 1939 |
| Mrs. Guy Ross | 1939 |

